

# Lawson's big spending hints at early poll

By Rodney Lord

**Economics Editor**  
Big increases in the Government's spending plans and a buoyant economic outlook were announced yesterday by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Nigel Lawson.  
In a statement which was seen as clearing the decks for an early election, Mr Lawson said that the economy would grow faster next year and that the prospects for some fall in unemployment were now more promising. Although inflation was likely to edge up slightly it was at its lowest level for two decades.  
The increase in public spending will help to fuel growth in the economy. But it has reduced the scope for tax cuts.  
Mr Lawson gave no indication yesterday of whether he still expected to be able to cut taxes in the Budget but it was expected that the buoyancy of revenue would still leave him scope for a small reduction.  
The statement was received fairly calmly in the City. Market traders were partially reassured by what seemed to be a more welcoming attitude towards full membership of the European Monetary System.  
Mr Lawson told the Commons that the balance had shifted considerably in favour of joining.

## THE MAIN POINTS

- Public spending plans for next year to total £148.6bn, £4.7bn more than announced at the time of the Budget.
- Local authorities get an extra £4bn, partly to take account of planned spending and partly to increase government aid.
- Education gets an extra £2.2bn next year, mostly to fund teachers' pay rises. There is more money for universities.
- Social security spending up £1.75bn and an extra £300m for the health service in England.
- Borrowing next year will be kept in line with present plans. City economists forecast little room for tax cuts in the Budget.
- Growth is expected to rise to 3 per cent in 1985 and inflation to 3 per cent. The balance of payments will show a £1.5bn deficit.

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He promised also that the projected increases in public spending would not be allowed to undermine the Government's prudent fiscal strategy. Government borrowing this year remains on target.  
The increases in spending were nevertheless much higher than generally expected. Next year's total had been increased by £4.4bn to £148.6bn and in 1988-89 the plans have been raised by £5.4bn to £154.4bn.  
This means that spending will rise in real terms - but

will still grow more slowly than the economy.

The reserve included in next year's plans has been cut from £6.3 billion to £3.5 billion, which is £1 billion lower than this year. And the forecast proceeds from privatization, which count as negative spending, have been rounded up from £4.4 billion to £5 billion.  
The main increase is in spending by local councils which has gone up by £4 billion. Previous provision was admitted to be unrealistically low. The Government grant to councils has been increased also, by almost 10 per cent.

With the exception of defence, contributions to the EEC and export credits every programme has been increased over previous plans.  
Apart from the increase in local authority spending on education - including teachers' pay - there is £60 million more for universities. Health and personal social services receive an extra £600 million. Mr Lawson claimed that combined with efficiency savings, the extra money would not only allow the Health Service to cope with a growing number of elderly patients but would also allow it to improve services.  
Spending on housing, including that funded by receipts from council house sales, has been increased by £450 million. Roads receive an extra £65 million. And the social security budget goes up

## U-turn delights Tory wets

By Robin Oakley

**Political Editor**  
The Government yesterday ran up the surrender flag in the face of demands from spending ministers which it had become politically impossible to refuse.

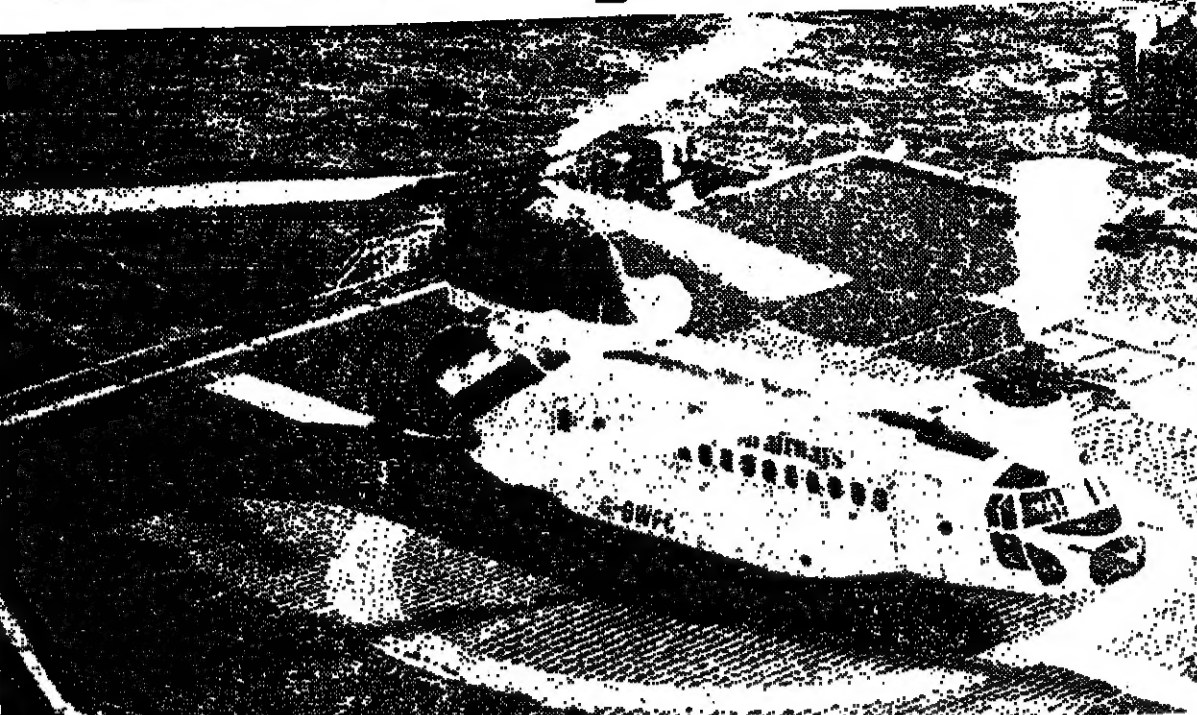
Mr Lawson's statement yesterday to the Commons was tacit acknowledgment, said Tory MPs, that the Star Chamber under Lord White-law had failed to trim spending Ministers' bids to anything like the total Mr Lawson had originally wanted.

Instead they had conceded that poll evidence of a public desire for increased spending on health and education had made it necessary to increase spending totals even if that made the prospect of tax cuts in a pre-election Budget next Spring a gamble.

In essence, the Government had been knocked off course by an extra £3.5 billion of spending by local authorities which they were unable to control, a further £500,000 obtained by Education Secretary Mr Kenneth Baker for the new offer to teachers, and the ever-increasing benefits bill for the unemployed and the old at the Department of Health and Social Security.  
Mr Lawson's statement to the Commons yesterday confirmed that the Government's Star Chamber, which has been whittling down the spending bids by departmental Ministers in a bid to keep the Chancellor in touch with his spending targets, had been forced to accept that any further pruning would be politically unacceptable, given poll evidence of public demand for educational and health services.

The Opposition immediately charged Mr Lawson with cynically setting off a pre-election spending boom, while Tory Wets thankfully seized upon what they were

# 45 men killed in Britain's worst helicopter disaster



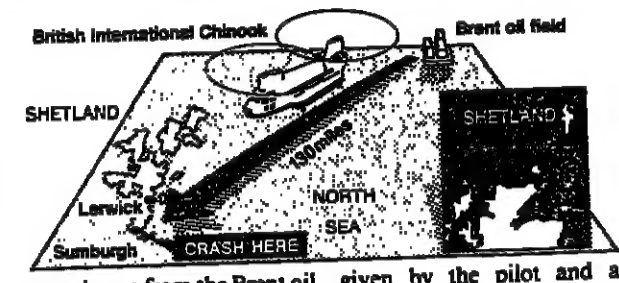
The doomed helicopter in its former British Airways livery.

## Crash without warning

By Harvey Elliott

**Air Correspondent**

Forty-five men died yesterday in Britain's worst helicopter disaster.  
A Boeing 234 twin rotor helicopter smashed without warning into the sea two miles off Sumburgh in Shetland and sank within minutes. All but two of those on board died in the icy waters.  
The survivors - including the captain - were taken to hospital and investigators were standing by to interview them in the hope of finding the cause of the accident.  
The giant helicopter - a civil version of the Chinook which performed so well in the Falklands war - was ferrying Shell employees in a routine



crew change from the Brent oil platform in the North Sea to Shetland, a duty it was due to perform three times.  
It was at a little over 500 ft on its final approach to Sumburgh Airport; the men on board were strapped in preparing for landing when it suddenly plummeted into 12 ft waves.  
No distress warning was

## Survivors owe lives to chance

The two known survivors of Britain's worst helicopter crash owe their lives to a chance in a million coincidence.

Captain Gordon Mitchell, a coastguard helicopter pilot, was on a routine patrol when he spotted what he thought was either a fishing boat or an oil slick in the water.  
Seconds later he heard air traffic control on his radio calling the Chinook, saying it had gone too low for radar.  
"I went in the direction of what I thought was the oil slick and when I got there I discovered it was the wreck," Captain Mitchell said last night.

When he arrived less than a minute after hearing the alert, the two survivors were already in the water but the helicopter had disappeared.  
"One was clinging to a bit of wreckage and the other was hanging on to a dinghy. We got the guy off the wreckage and a winchman cut free the man hanging to the dinghy...  
"Something catastrophic must have happened. Then bodies started floating to the surface," he said.

The captain and his crew hunted desperately for other survivors, but could see none.  
Then a trawler, the River Dee, arrived on the scene and the helicopter flew the two men to hospital.

Both men were injured. One had chest pains and the other was suffering from shock.  
The survivors, like the victims in the water, were wearing uninflated life jackets.

Continued on page 2, col 3

## Aviation minister rushes to scene

Mr John Moore, Secretary of State for Transport, promised in the Commons a thorough inquiry into the cause of the Chinook helicopter crash.

In a statement, Mr Moore said an investigation team had already left for the scene, with the Aviation Minister, Mr Michael Spicer.  
He told MPs the Chief Inspector of Accidents would carry out a full inquiry and pledged: "Resources will not be impeded the proper investigation of this accident."

For the Opposition, Mr Peter Snape said the "appalling tragedy" was a reminder of the price paid for successful North Sea oil exploitation.  
Mr Moore said: "We all owe a debt to those whose tenacity, courage and ingenuity, win for our nation, oil reserves from the sea."  
"I understand no warning of any kind was given."

The former Transport Minister, Mr David Howell (Guildford), said the high number killed seemed to indicate "something much worse, an explosion of some kind, before the craft hit the water."  
Mr Malcolm Bruce, Liberal MP for Gordon, said he had been advised that the helicopter was seen "effectively to fall out of the sky, about 500 feet from the water, and break-up on impact."

## Emergency inquiry into ways to curb Aids

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

An emergency parliamentary inquiry has been launched into the growing Aids crisis.

The inquiry will question ministers and leading health experts, and is to examine even the most unpalatable options for containing the disease. These include screening visitors from Aids-affected countries, the strict physical isolation of Aids victims and carriers, making Aids a notifiable disease, and issuing identity cards to Aids carriers.  
The investigation is being conducted by the Social Services Select Committee, which considers the subject so serious that it has deferred other

inquiries into management of the National Health Service and child care.  
The committee took its decision on Wednesday, sent out letters inviting written evidence yesterday, and will hold up to five weeks of oral evidence sessions from the beginning of January.  
Latest figures show that by the end of October there had been 548 cases of Aids reported, and 278 deaths - a sharp increase on September's figures of 512 and 250.  
At the same time a special Cabinet committee has been set up to tackle the crisis.  
Rancie's challenge, page 3  
WHO warning, page 3

## Tomorrow

Slopes to be seen on



U and non-U in the mountains: a four-page guide to the ups and downs of ski society

## Portfolio

● Yesterday's £8,000 prize in The Times Portfolio Gold competition, double the usual amount as there was no winner on Wednesday, was won by Mrs Mavis Johnson, of Wollaton, Nottingham. Details, page 3.  
● There is £20,000 to be won tomorrow - the daily £4,000 plus the weekly prize of £16,000, double the usual amount as there was no winner last weekend.  
● Portfolio list, page 27; how to play, information service, page 20.

## TIMES BUSINESS

### Ford rejected

The Italian state-controlled company, Finmeccanica, has accepted a takeover offer by Fiat for Alfa Romeo, turning down a bid by Ford Motor of America

### Banks lag

British banks have one of the least developed payments systems in Europe because of the lack of investment in technology

## TIMES SPORT

### ITV tackled

ITV's plans to televise live a top Italian League football match on Sunday have been thwarted following the Football Association's decision to ban coverage of foreign league games during the English season

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## Pound up in hope of high rates

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The pound reacted favourably to the Chancellor's statement, buoyed by the expectation that the Government's decision to boost public spending would keep interest rates high.

It rose 1.1 cents to \$1.4340, and the sterling index was up 0.4 to 69.5. Interest rates in the money markets finished higher in response to the statement. In New York the pound slipped to \$1.4285 in early trading.  
Share prices closed higher, with the FT 30 share index 7.8

Continued on page 20, col 1

## Times ban ended by 2 councils

By Staff Reporters

Two of the three Labour-controlled councils ordered by the High Court on Wednesday to end their banning from public libraries of The Times and other News International titles moved to comply with the order yesterday, but the third is delaying obeying the instruction until after the weekend at least.

The London boroughs of Camden and Hammersmith and Fulham gave instructions to council officers yesterday to restore the banned papers to their libraries.

Mr Frank Nixon, the Chief Executive of Camden, said: "We shall comply with the court order and the necessary arrangements are being made now. The papers will be available again within the next day or so."

A spokesman for Councillor Gordon Prentice, Labour leader of Hammersmith and Fulham, said: "We shall be considering the court's

Continued on Page 2, col 5

## Judge jails rape victim for contempt

By Frances Gibb

**Legal Affairs Correspondent**

An alleged rape victim was jailed for a day yesterday by a judge at the Central Criminal Court after she refused to give evidence at a trial.

The woman, a chambermaid from Northolt, Middlesex, was arrested after she told police she was too frightened to speak out at the trial of a man, aged 27, from Southall, West London, charged with rape and other offences.  
Judge Denison QC gave the girl, aged 19, a day's detention for contempt, because she failed to comply with a witness order made against her at the committal stage obliging her to appear.  
When she failed to turn up at the Central Criminal Court

## Russia accuses US of arms 'retreat'

From Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent, Vienna

The Vienna follow-up to the Reykjavik summit ended yesterday without progress after five hours of talks during two meetings between Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, and Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, failed to clear up the main obstacles.

Mr Shevardnadze said the talks "left a bitter taste" and accused the Americans of "a complete retreat from the high ground reached in Iceland".  
The Soviets say President Reagan agreed at Reykjavik to elimination of all nuclear weapons within 10 years. The Administration version is that he agreed to elimination of ballistic missiles but not bombs, cruise missiles or nuclear shells.

No date was set for another meeting and no further summit is planned. Negotiations now move to the Geneva strategic arms talks, where the Americans have already tabled their interpretation of the Reykjavik proposals.  
The Vienna talks foundered on the same issue as the Iceland meeting. Mr Shevardnadze continued to make any nuclear disarmament pact conditional on the US abandoning plans to test laser defences against ballistic missiles.

The Americans remained firm in their commitment to the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI).  
Mr Shultz said the US needed to continue testing because of uncertainty as to whether ballistic missiles would be eliminated, and because it was SDI that had prompted Soviet disarmament overtures. He also argued that "cheating" Mr Shevardnadze agreed to take a second look at British evidence of Syrian intelligence involvement in a plot to blow up an El Al airliner last April.

Mr Shultz pressed him to reconsider the negative Soviet attitude to Britain's decision to end relations with Syria.

The judge was "not fit" to sit on the bench and should be removed.

The National Association of Victims Support Schemes said that the use of videos in taking evidence was one option it intended to pursue in forming proposals to improve the treatment of victims in court.  
Ms Helen Reeves, a director, said: "I am horrified at what appears to be so little understanding that a woman would be frightened of giving this sort of evidence in a public court."

The police had taken considerable steps to make the treatment of rape victims more humane.

The association had set up a working party to examine the problems of victims in court chaired by Lady Ralphs, the past chairman of the Magistrates' Association, with representatives from the judiciary, police, probation service, courts and the Law Society on it.

The Home Office, which has announced it is to introduce videos into courts for the taking of evidence from children who are victims of violent crime, said yesterday that there were no plans to extend this to adults.  
The case against the man, who has been in custody for a year, will proceed today.  
Judge Denison, aged 57, was appointed a circuit judge in March 1985. He was a crown court recorder from 1979 to 1985 and lists his recreations in Who's Who as "walking" and "reading rubbish".

## Manchester United look to Ferguson

Alex Ferguson, the former Scotland and Aberdeen manager, is expected to take over as the manager of Manchester United following the dismissal yesterday of Ron Atkinson.

The poor performance of the team over the last 12 months was the reason given by the club chairman, Martin Edwards, for the dismissal of Atkinson, who had been at the club for five and a half years.  
During that period the team had won the FA Cup twice but never achieved the success in the League that the club has craved since it last won the title under Matt Busby in 1967.

Full report, page 36

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## NEWS SUMMARY

## Drink-drive test option continues

Motorists suspected of drink-driving are to continue to have the right to take a blood or urine test, Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, announced last night (Our Chief Political Correspondent writes).

He told MPs that he was allowing a two-year extension to enable the growing confidence in the Lion Intoximeter breathalyzer to be consolidated.

The breath or urine test option was to have ended upon the introduction of the intoximeter. But after a campaign led by Mr Peter Brimble, Conservative MP for Leicester East, complaining about machine inaccuracies, the Government initially agreed to allow the breath or urine test to continue for a year.

Mr Hurd said the option would be reviewed again in two years' time.

## Appeal on MI5 gag

Two national newspapers were yesterday given leave to appeal to the House of Lords against an injunction limiting their freedom to publish allegations of "criminal misconduct" in the Secret Service.

A committee of three law lords gave *The Guardian* and *The Observer* leave to challenge a reporting ban imposed by the Attorney General, which was later modified by the Court of Appeal, to exclude any material disclosed in Parliament or the English courts, or in Australia, where the Attorney General is seeking to stop publication of a book by a former senior MI5 officer, Mr Peter Wright.

Mr Anthony Lester, QC, for the newspapers, said the case raised issues of "constitutional importance".

## IBA cuts radio fees

The Independent Broadcasting Authority yesterday announced a cut of at least 26 per cent in the fees it charges Britain's 52 independent local radio stations.

In 26 areas, where stations have faced particular difficulties, the cuts will be closer to 35 per cent.

The cuts, which are backdated to April, will be a boost to local radio, which has failed to achieve hoped-for levels of profitability, although it has been successful in attracting larger audiences than those of the BBC.

## Nurse is leader

Mr Hector Mackenzie, a qualified nurse, yesterday became general secretary of the 212,000-strong Confederation of Health Service Employees (Cohse).

In a field of seven, he gained 21,700 votes. His nearest rival obtained 4,481 votes.

Mr Mackenzie, who has been the union's assistant general secretary since 1983 will work with Mr David Williams, the outgoing secretary until he takes up the post on May 1 next year.

## Opren case ruling

An arthritis sufferer who is suing for damages over alleged side-effects from the drug, Opren, cannot have her own observer present when she is examined by the manufacturer's medical expert, a High Court judge ruled yesterday.

Mrs Ingrid Baker, aged 48, was treated with Opren in 1981. She is one of more than 1,000 people who have issued writs against the American company, Eli Lilly, its British subsidiaries and the Government's Committee on the Safety of Medicines, over alleged side-effects.

Mrs Baker has agreed to undergo tests in Dundee, supervised by Dr William Frazer-Bell, a consultant dermatologist, on behalf of Eli Lilly. Mr Justice Hirst said the court must give Dr Frazer-Bell the credit of being accurate in recording his results. The presence of an outsider would impose "an undue constraint" upon him.

## Jockey's drink ban

Walter Swinburn, the leading jockey, crashed his Mercedes car into a lamp post while trying to do up his seat belt, Newmarket Magistrates' Court was told yesterday.

Swinburn, aged 25, of Genesis Green Stud, Ouseley, Suffolk, was leaving a dinner party and had nearly three times the legal level of alcohol in his breath. He was fined £200 and banned for two years.

Mr Jeremy Richardson, for Swinburn, said his client momentarily dropped his guard while relaxing with friends.

## 'Racism' case fails

Camden council has failed in its attempt to evict a tenant, whose sons allegedly carried out a racist hate campaign against an Asian family.

Mrs Maria Hawkins, aged 46, went when the judge at Clerkenwell County Court rejected the council's repossession order on her Holborn flat.

Mrs Hawkins, a divorcee, said: "I'm so relieved - it's been an absolute nightmare this week."

Councillor Barbara Beck, chairman of the borough's race committee, said: "I'm very very disappointed."

## EEC law expert questions water sale

By Howard Foster

The Conservative Government's plans to privatize the British water industry would be banned by existing EEC legislation, according to documents released by a leading conservation group yesterday.

The Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) engaged an expert in European law, Professor Francis Jacobs, to give his formal opinion on the viability of the scheme to hand the running of the water industry to private enterprise. His findings have been sent to Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment. Although the Conservatives

have abandoned hopes of privatization during the life of this Parliament, a 30-man team is hard at work within the Department of the Environment preparing the ground for legislation early in the term of a third Tory Government.

Professor Jacobs, who holds the Chair of European Law at King's College, London, says Britain's EEC membership requires it to conform to directives on the maintenance of water quality and pollution control.

He concludes that: "It is quite likely that the European Court would decide that privatized water companies were not bodies which the UK

could properly designate as "competent authorities". In EEC terms, they had to be "governmental" and act "free from the pressure of shareholders or other private interests".

Professor Jacobs also said that he believes it to be beyond doubt that EEC legislation demanding the running of the water systems by competent authorities assumes that the bodies involved will be public ones, arms of the government or state.

The CPRE also said yesterday that if the Government were to lay a water privatization Bill before Parliament, it would immediately apply to

the High Court for a declaration against the Attorney General on the question of conformity to EEC law. This, in turn, would almost certainly lead to a reference to the European Court of Justice for a ruling which could take up to a year to emerge.

Even then, says Professor Jacobs, that court would be likely to conclude that the companies could not be designated.

CPRE director Mr Robin Grove-White said yesterday: "Council's opinion appears to deal a very serious blow to the Government's announced intention to put the control of pollution and water quality standards in Britain's rivers in

the hands of private companies. CPRE's entire concern on this question has always been environmental. We fear great problems if the water system is privatized."

Conservation groups are worried because private ownership might pass into the hands of companies which could abuse their position.

Last night the Department of the Environment confirmed that it was studying the document, but issued its own statement about the opinions voiced by Professor Jacobs: "There is no reason to believe that privatized water authorities could not be competent authorities under EEC law."

## Cash plea for babies of rape victims

By Peter Evans

A fixed award of £5,000 for rape victims, who keep a child born as a result of the offence, is suggested in the report of an inter-departmental working party on the workings of the criminal injuries compensation scheme, published yesterday.

The money would be in recognition of the special difficulties faced by women in that position.

The report said that, wherever possible, the offender should be made to pay the cost of such compensation.

The working party has reviewed the scheme with a view to its being placed on a statutory basis. At present payments are made *ex gratia* and the scheme is a non-statutory arrangement for which the Home Secretary and the Secretary of State for Scotland are responsible.

The Home Office said yesterday: "The Government welcomes the working party report, which makes many useful recommendations for the statutory form of the scheme." Effect would be given to the report by including the necessary provisions in the proposed Criminal Justice Bill. The main features of the present scheme will remain.

At present compensation is payable to policemen and members of the public injured accidentally in seeking to apprehend an offender or prevent an offence, provided that in doing so an exceptional and justified risk was taken.

"We recommend that the exceptional risk requirement should be removed in the case of members of the public, who will almost always be taking an exceptional risk in such circumstances," the report said.

One of the most important aspects of the statutory scheme is that compensation will no longer be awarded on an *ex gratia* basis. Anyone who satisfies the conditions for payment of compensation "will have a legal and enforceable right to compensation."

*Criminal Injuries Compensation: A Statutory Scheme*. London, HMSO, £4.35p

## Detective cleared of conspiracy

By Craig Seton

A detective accused of teaming up with an underworld informer to plot an armed robbery was cleared of conspiracy to rob at Nottingham Crown Court yesterday.

It took the jury nearly five hours to acquit Detective Sergeant Graham Sayer, aged 40, of conspiring to carry out the robbery on a mail van at Aldershot, Hampshire in April 1985.

The jury could not agree a verdict on a charge of robbing a mail van of £300,000 in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire and was sent to a hotel for the night.

The prosecution had alleged that Det Sgt Sayer, an officer with Thames Valley Police, had teamed up with Roger Dennhardt to plan and carry out the two robberies in which a sawn-off shotgun was used.

Det Sgt Sayer, of Tilehurst, near Reading, Berkshire, had denied both charges.

The court was told that he had been given the task of "minding" Dennhardt, aged 37, when he decided to turn Queen's evidence.

His evidence led to Operation Carter, a round-up of criminals involved in armed robberies.

During the trial, evidence was given by Det Sgt Sayer, who was cleared of conspiracy to rob, and by Roger Dennhardt, who was cleared of conspiracy to rob, and by a witness who said he had seen Det Sgt Sayer with a sawn-off shotgun.

## Helicopter safety

## Regulations tightened after crash in Scillies

By David Sapsford

Specific safety improvements for helicopters were recommended in a Civil Aviation Authority report two years ago after a British Airways Sikorsky crashed into the sea off the Scilly Isles killing 20 people.

Radio altimeters, with voice warnings, were installed in all commercial helicopters as well as automatically-deployed distress beacons - a requirement which came into effect on November 1 - and improved life rafts, life jackets and easier escape routes were provided.

The type that crashed yesterday, the Boeing 234LR, is a civilian version of the heavy-weight Chinook helicopter, almost forty of which are currently in service with the RAF. It originally appeared in the early 1960s and, after successful service in Vietnam, was adopted by 13 other air forces.

RAF experience with the Chinook has been good. Apart from three lost when the Atlantic Conveyor was sunk during the Falklands War, the only crashes have involved one that went down earlier this year - killing three crewmen - in a storm in the South Atlantic and, in 1984, a forced landing by one of the helicopters near its base at RAF Odiham in Hampshire. Nobody was killed in that incident.

In 1982, members of a Swansea sky-diving team were among 46 people killed when a US Army Chinook crashed at an air show in Mannheim, West Germany, after the failure of a rotor transmission.

That accident, the world's worst helicopter crash, had

striking similarities with yesterday's.

More than a thousand twin-rotor Chinooks have been built for the military worldwide, most of them being operated by the US Army. The civilian version first arrived in Britain in 1981 when British Airways ordered four.

The machines were subsequently sold to the Aberdeen-based British International Helicopters for service in the North Sea.

In its civilian role, the helicopter is capable of carrying between 44 and 46 passengers, has a maximum speed of 165 mph and a range of 575 miles.

In May, 1984, a Boeing Vertol, then operated by British Airways, ditched at a spot close to yesterday's incident but all 44 oil workers aboard, and the crew of three, escaped and were picked up unharmed by fishing vessels.

The worst North Sea helicopter crash took place yesterday when a Chinook, operated by British International Helicopters, crashed into the sea off the Norfolk coast, killing all 13 men on board.

An engine or gearbox fault was blamed for that crash. In September, 1982, a Bell 212, also operated by Bristow and scrambled at short notice to pick up a sick crew member on an oil support vessel, went down 110 miles north-east of the Shetlands, killing its six-man crew.

Last May, a British Calandron Bell 214ST also went down in the North Sea on a trip to the Magnus Field, but all 20 people on board were rescued.

## 45 killed in worst helicopter crash

Continued from page 1

234s owned by British International Helicopters - recently bought by Mr Robert Maxwell from British Airways. Throughout the day, military and civilian aircraft and ships searched the area for possible survivors and picked up bodies.

By last night, the investigation had begun into why a helicopter which is known for being tough and reliable should suddenly plunge from the sky.

The investigators will be looking for similarities between the crash and two similar incidents involving Chinooks. In 1984, an identical helicopter was suddenly thrown violently about the sky and ditched into the sea at almost the same spot as yesterday's disaster.

A fatigue failure in the hydraulic system was eventually found to be the cause. As a result of the ditching, from which all 44 passengers and the crew of three escaped unhurt, changes in the pilots' procedures were implemented and every other helicopter in the fleet was checked.

In the world's worst rotary wing disaster, 46 sky divers died when a military Chinook crashed in Germany in 1982. Investigators discovered that the synchronizing shaft linking the two rotors had failed, causing the blades to smash into each other and send the helicopter plunging to the ground.

Had such an incident happened yesterday, the pilot would have been thrown violently about, his hands almost certainly being torn from the controls and unable to operate the radio distress switch.

And being so low over the sea, the helicopter would have smashed into the waves in seconds, breaking on impact, sinking immediately and throwing out the two survivors as it did so. The other passengers would have been taken down with the sinking aircraft.

At the time of yesterday's disaster, the Chinook was in contact with Sumburgh by radio and tracked by radar at both Aberdeen and Prestwick. It vanished from the controllers' screens without warning, triggering an immediate alert involving all Scotland's rescue services.

One of the first aircraft on the scene was a Bristow helicopter which spotted an oil slick and decided to investigate. But there was little sign of wreckage and when bodies were found they were not wearing inflated life jackets - adding support to the theory that whatever caused the crash was sudden and violent giving the crew no warning and no time to call for help.

The fact that the bodies so far found did not have their life jackets inflated is a further indication of the suddenness of the disaster which gave them no time to pull cords to inflate the jackets.

Emergency telephone numbers were given for people inquiring about friends or relatives. They are 0224-643974, 643907 and 643905. The accident is a further blow to Britain's helicopter industry already wracked by a dramatic fall in demand for their services because falling oil prices have reduced the need for North Sea operations. This has in turn led to generally low morale among helicopter crew and constant demands from management for a reduction in costs.

The first rescuers to arrive found nothing but an oil slick and bodies floating in it face down. Two life rafts, one wheel and some small pieces of cabin wreckage were later spotted bobbing on the waves.

The Aviation Minister, Mr Michael Spicer, flew from Northolt to Sumburgh to oversee the operation. There have been remarkably few accidents involving helicopters on the civil register in recent years. And in the last 10 years there have only been four fatal accidents involving civilian helicopters.



Mr Simon Roe, of Fulham, reading one of the first copies of *The Times* available at the Fulham Public Library after the High Court ruling (Photograph: Peter Triemer).

## The Times back in libraries

Continued from Page 1

decision in more detail at our next meeting but in the meantime there is no question of us not complying with it. A letter is being sent to the Chief Executive instructing him to comply."

However, the London borough of Ealing will not be obeying the order before the weekend at least. Mr John Leabutter, the acting chief executive, said: "There is a meeting arranged about this over the weekend and we will

know what the position is on Monday."

The three councils were said in the High Court to have set out to punish News International, publishers of *The Times*, *The Sunday Times*, *The Sun* and *The News of the World*, because of the company's dispute with 5,500 printworkers dismissed after going on strike when publication of the titles was moved to Wapping in East London.

Lord Justice Watkins described the bans as "irresponsible" and said: "There could hardly be a clearer manifestation of an abuse of power."

Seventeen English and one Welsh local authorities, all Labour-controlled, have been operating similar bans and were yesterday warned by solicitors acting for News International to reverse their decisions within seven days or face court action. They are: Birmingham, Barnsley, Brent, Greenwich, Hackney, Haringey, Islington, Knowsley, Lambeth, Lewisham, Manchester, Newham, St Helens, Sheffield, Southwark, Waltham Forest and Cynon Valley in Wales.

A survey of libraries in the three London boroughs involved in the court case yesterday showed that in Hammersmith and Fulham, nearly all the libraries were stocking *The Times* and *The Sun*, except for the libraries at Shepherd's Bush, where *The Sun* had been previously discontinued for lack of demand, and the Sands Ends Library which had never taken *The Sun* as it did not take a full range of papers.

But there were no News International papers available yesterday in any of Camden's fourteen libraries. In Ealing a similar picture was evident. An assistant at the Central Library in Ealing Broadway said no copies of *The Times* would be available "until further notice". At Northfields library an assistant said: "I would not bother looking for News International newspapers. They have been black-balled borough-wide."

In a separate development yesterday, journalists on *The Sun*, decided to withdraw subscriptions to the National Union of Journalists in protest against the expulsion of Mr Carson Black, the father of their chapel (office branch).

The offer, which amounts to £58m, is open until next Monday.

Those who were totally reliant on employment by the company are being offered four weeks pay per year of service up to a limit of £205 a week. For those who were employed partly by the company, the limit is £155 a week.

Since the dispute started when 5,500 employees went on strike and were dismissed, the company has published its four national newspaper titles at its new high technology plant at Wapping, east London.

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## Reactor to shut down

One of two nuclear reactors at Hinkley Point A, a atomic power station will be closed before the end of the year for a safety inspection of two standpipes which have shown signs of corrosion (Our Science Editor writes).

The Central Electricity Generating Board said yesterday that as a matter of procedure it had decided to develop equipment and procedures to replace the standpipes if this proved necessary.

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## Ruskin talks today on Times columnist

By Howard Foster

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## Hospices must accept the challenge of Aids victims, says Runcie

By Jill Sherman

The Archbishop of Canterbury has challenged the hospice organization to face up to the problems of caring for terminally ill patients with Aids.

Speaking at a conference held in London yesterday by the voluntary organization, Help the Hospices, Dr Robert Runcie said that hospices would need to look at the whole range of medical and pastoral issues raised by Aids as well as less emotive illnesses.

"I am sure this is something the hospice movement will be facing. I am sure they will face it as sensitively and courageously as they have faced other challenges."

The hospice movement has been criticized by the Royal College of Nursing, which has claimed that hospices are refusing to treat Aids patients for fear of losing private donations from those in the local community.

But Help the Hospices president, Dame Cicely

Saunders, has said that hospice accommodation provided by the movement is not always practical for Aids patients, many of whom need intensive medical care.

Yesterday the Archbishop of Canterbury, taking over from Dame Cicely as president, praised her work and said that Help the Hospices was one of the most helpful and humane movements of the twentieth century.

Aids was only one of the main issues which he and the movement would need to tackle, he said.

They would also need to look at improving training of both teachers and volunteers and strengthen and expand existing links between voluntary hospices and the National Health Service.

"I will do my best to advance these things in the new phase of our work."

But the archbishop gave a warning of the consequences of ill-considered and inadequately prepared services for the terminally ill and emphasized the importance of co-operation to avoid confusion over short-term and long-term goals. "Hospices that try to do it alone and too quickly are in for trouble."

Mr John Major, Minister for Social Security, addressing the conference, provided little assurance that present problems covering attendance allowances and individual care allowances for the terminally ill and their carers would be sorted out soon.

The payments are now subject to a six-month qualifying period but the hospice movement has argued that terminally ill people are often seriously ill for a few weeks or months but die before they qualify for benefit.

Mr Major also indicated that board and lodging payments for those in nursing homes and some hospices were likely to rise shortly, for the third time in 18 months.

## Aids screening is called 'senseless'

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Any plans by Britain or other countries to screen foreign visitors for signs of Aids infection would be "senseless and ineffective", the World Health Organization's leading expert on the disease said yesterday.

Dr Jonathan Mann said the organization was strongly opposed to such moves but issued a warning that some countries might introduce screening of foreigners for political or symbolic reasons.

"At least a million people in the United States and an estimated 30,000 and 50,000 people in the United Kingdom are infected with the Aids virus," Dr Mann told European health officials. "For countries like these to consider screening selectively people from different parts of the world in order to try to protect their own home populations from infection does not make any sense and WHO is strongly opposed to it," he said.

"This of course does not mean that some national health authorities will not take matters into their own hands and promulgate regulations that have no justification in terms of disease prevention."

"We have to assume that when this is done, it is done for a more political or symbolic purpose. It does not work to prevent transmission of this international disease."

Dr Mann was speaking from Geneva on a satellite television broadcast arranged by the United States Information Agency. He and two American experts on Aids answered questions from doctors and researchers.

Government ministers and senior health officials in Britain have discussed the possibility of screening overseas visitors for signs of Aids infection, but the proposal, prompted by concern about high levels of infection in some African states, received little support at a high-level meeting in Whitehall in September.

Insurance companies were accused by a senior immunologist yesterday of "driving Aids underground" by refusing insurance to those at risk from the disease.

Dr Graham Bird said the companies' attitudes would disguise the true size of the Aids epidemic and increase its spread because more people would avoid taking an Aids virus blood test.

## Detective denies allegations

By Stewart Tindler, Crime Reporter

A senior Scotland Yard detective yesterday criticized Labour MPs for hiding behind parliamentary privilege to accuse him of corruption and claimed attacks against him were a repetition of malicious and unfounded allegations.

Det Supt Anthony Lundy, a member of the Yard's specialist unit investigating organized crime, issued a statement yesterday after he was named by Mr Clive Sole, Labour MP for Hammer-smith, and Mr Christopher Smith, Labour MP for Islington South, in an early day motion.

The motion came after a *World in Action* programme on the relationship between Roy Garner, alleged to be a leading London criminal, and the Yard.

Mr Peter Wright, Chief Constable of South Yorkshire, has begun an investigation into the allegations made in the programme.

In his statement, Mr Lundy said he wished to reply to the "false allegations which have been made against me over the last few days. These are a repetition of malicious and unfounded allegations which have been going on for a number of years. They have already been investigated and I have been fully exonerated."

Mr Lundy, a detective for more than 20 years, said he had been responsible for the conviction of many leading criminals, including murderers and armed robbers. As well as having to withstand attacks on his integrity there had been intolerable intrusion at home from the media.

The latest series of allegations, he said, "have taken different and sinister lines of attack."

"The fact that MPs can irresponsibly make unsubstantiated general allegations that I am corrupt whilst hiding behind parliamentary privilege is absolutely disgusting," he said.

## Brent appeal on head next week

By Staff Reporters

The appeal by Brent council in north London against a High Court ruling on disciplinary action against Miss Maureen McGoldrick, the head teacher accused of making a racist remark, has been brought forward to Monday.

The hearing was originally scheduled for later in the month, but a new date was fixed yesterday after the intervention of Sir John Donaldson, the Master of the Rolls.

Miss McGoldrick, of Sudbury Infants School, returned to a warm welcome from parents and children on Wednesday after her suspension was lifted by the Labour-controlled council.

Despite the move, the council is still pursuing legal action against her.

● The Brent council official at the centre of the race storm over the suspension of Miss McGoldrick said yesterday that she "absolutely stuck by" her claim that the head teacher had objected to the appointment of more black teachers at her school.

Miss Margaret Smith, aged 31, a staffing officer in Brent's education department, said she had been "shocked" when Miss McGoldrick made the remark.

The two women were having a telephone conversation on July 17 about four vacancies at the school. Miss Smith allegedly offered the services of Mr Shamim Khan, Labour-controlled Brent council claims that the head teacher then said: "I do not want more black teachers."

Miss McGoldrick has denied making the remark and the school's board of governors unanimously cleared her.

However, Miss Smith said yesterday: "There is absolutely no question of my going back on what I have said. I absolutely stick by it."

"When she made the remark I was obviously shocked. As a council official, I had a responsibility to report it to a supervisor."

● The survey was conducted by MORI for *The Times Educational Supplement*.

Support for the Conservative Party in the secondary sector has fallen by 43 per cent since May 1983. Now only 22 per cent of teachers express support for the Tories.

Although more than 60 per cent believe that parents should help to determine the contents of the sex education curriculum, 70 per cent of teachers are distrustful of parents' ability to explain the facts of life adequately.

● MORI interviewed a representative sample of 520 teachers in secondary schools

buy the medals back for him. The memorial is to be erected next year at Woodhall Spa, Lincolnshire, near the airbase where the squadron was based.

The first choice was decided on. Nearly all the funds required had already been raised and Mr Getty has suggested that the fund raisers should offer to return the cheques. He was particularly moved by one pensioner who had sent a cheque for £25 and three post-dated cheques of £25 each - because that was all he could afford. A statement issued by Mr Getty yesterday says simply: "This man gained his

medals and he should be able to keep them. Consider this gesture my red poppy for this year."

Mr Chandler was pleased but clearly disappointed yesterday afternoon. "I just can't get over it," he said. His nine medals include the DFC and bar and the Russian Medal of Valour.

Together with the other three men in the crew of a Hampden bomber he spent nine days drifting in the North Sea in a small rubber dinghy, without food or water, before they were seen.

Sale room, page 18



Lord Blandford (left) leaving court with his parents (Photograph: Peter Trievnor)

## Blandford gets final chance

Lord Blandford was yesterday given a two-year suspended prison sentence for possessing cocaine.

He was also ordered to pay £2,000 costs and put under a two-year supervision order.

Judge Powell was told at Knightsbridge Crown Court in London that Lord Blandford had been reduced to a "physical and mental wreck" by drugs.

Lord Blandford, aged 30, has unsuccessfully tried to fight drugs before and has been in court three times since 1983. However, the judge said he was convinced he could combat his addiction this time with the help of his family.

The judge heard evidence from two drug addiction specialists and said it was clear to him there had been a

change in Lord Blandford's life.

He told him: "You are indeed quite a different person to the one that was found in that squalid basement flat in the Edgware Road."

"I shall assume that the change is not merely skin deep, but deep down too."

"Many, of course, would say you had your last chance last year or earlier this year and they may be right, but I cannot for my part bring myself to deal with you in a way which would reverse the obvious upward trend."

After sentence was passed Lord Blandford left the dock to be embraced by his father, his sister, Henrietta, and other members of his family.

Lord Blandford's drug habit began at wild parties in New

York in the late 1970s and led to his father banning him from Blenheim Palace.

At one stage he was spending £300 a day on heroin, but after being arrested at the end of last year he started working hard at kicking his lethal habit.

Previous attempts had failed miserably, but his determination to succeed this time so impressed his father that there was a reconciliation.

He is now living at home and has his family's support.

His earlier court appearances were in October 1983 for assaulting a police officer; possession of heroin and a burglary, which was in pursuit of drugs, in April 1985 and in January 1986 for breaking a probation order.

## Thatcher keeps out of battle with BBC

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister refused yesterday to be drawn into the row between Mr Norman Tebbit and the BBC, as Mr Neil Kinnock and Mr James Callaghan, the former Labour prime minister, led an opposition onslaught in the Commons.

Mr Kinnock said that the BBC governors had now convincingly rebutted 39 of the 40 charges made by Mr Tebbit, whom he accused of blatant and obvious coercion.

He called on Mrs Thatcher to say whether she agreed with Mr Tebbit or the governors.

"Is Mrs Thatcher accepting Mr Tebbit's actions or rejecting them?" Mr Kinnock said.

The Prime Minister said the governors had a special duty to see that the BBC charter, licence and agreement were upheld. People were free to make complaints and it was up to the governors to answer them. "The governors have made a reply and it is not for me to judge between them."

Mrs Thatcher's reluctance to become embroiled in the dispute did not surprise Conservative MPs, who believe she must be aware of some senior Conservatives' concerns about the deterioration in relations with the corporation.

Mr Callaghan bluntly asked her how long she intended to allow Mr Tebbit to go on "making a fool of the Government."

Many Conservatives believe Mr Tebbit's exercise has backfired on him, and that the BBC response was a convincing one, despite his decision to renew his attack late on Wednesday.

Channel 4 Television is expecting charges of political bias from the left next Wednesday when it starts a six-part series that is said to be the most sustained attack on the welfare state ever shown on British television (Our Media Correspondent writes).

The series, *The New Enlightenment*, is partially funded by the Reason Foundation, a right-leaning American political organization.

Channel Four officials expect the programmes to draw a vigorous reaction from unions and the Labour Party.

Leading article, page 17

## Portfolio - Gold - Chance of a holiday for family

A housewife is the sole winner of yesterday's Portfolio Gold prize of £4,000.

Mrs Mavis Johnson, aged 42, from Wollaton in Nottingham, has played the Portfolio Gold game "off and on" since it started.

"I am a bit shocked, because I've never won anything before," Mrs Johnson said. "But I am happy."

Readers who wish to play the game can obtain a Portfolio Gold card by sending a stamped addressed envelope to: Portfolio Gold, The Times, PO Box 40, Blackburn, BB1 6AJ.

Mrs Johnson was shocked but happy to win.

Welsh public house is best restaurant

A Welsh public house which has served first class Italian food for the past 23 years is the Egon Ronay Cellnet Restaurant of the Year.

The award was won by the Walnut Tree Inn, Llandwili Skirrid, Aberystwyth, where Franco and Ann Tarnschle serve Italian specialities such as bresaola (home cured beef) and brodetto (fish casserole). It was announced at a luncheon at the Dorchester Hotel, London, yesterday.

The Hotel of the Year Award went to the Homewood Park Hotel, Freshford, near Bath, a 15-bedroom country house hotel.

## Solicitors support reforms

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Proposals for abolishing the restrictions on solicitors' rights to appear as advocates in some courts have won overwhelming backing from among local law societies, solicitors and legal academics.

The proposals are among a package of radical reforms contained in the Law Society discussion paper, *Lawyers and the Courts*, which has been the subject of wide consultation.

There is also widespread support in favour of a common system of education and training for all lawyers; and for judicial appointments to be open to all lawyers.

The analysis of the 170 replies, published by the Law Society yesterday, shows a two-to-one majority of those responding generally in favour of the proposals. The proposals advocate wide-ranging reform of the legal profession and removal of restrictive practices distinguishing barristers and solicitors.

But lawyers are split on some of the key suggestions: in particular 38 per cent specifically agreed with the proposal that there should be direct access to all lawyers; but 18 disagreed.

Almost as many disagreed with the statement "arguments in favour of the present system are poor" as agreed; and while 33 respondents agreed all lawyers should have a compulsory two or three-year period of training in a solicitor's office, 19 disagreed.

The responses are to be submitted to the joint committee set up under Lady Mair.

A draft response is expected to go to the Law Society Council in January.

# Saint or Singer?

Mortimer quotes Geldof's anarchic lyrics back at him to see how he reconciles them with the achievement of Live Aid.

Bob Geldof is turning again from famine to pop music. In this week's Spectator John Mortimer asks the founder of Live Aid about his improbable career.

Is Geldof a strange emissary of God? Is he a foul-mouthed self-publicist? Or is he simply someone who has tried hard to do good?

In this frank interview, Geldof explains his low view of politicians (despite a sneaking admiration for David Owen), his realism about the problems of hunger, and how he combines wildness with domesticity.

And, looking at his future in rock music, prompts Geldof's own question, "Is that it?"

Also in this week's Spectator, Stephen Robinson reveals how the Conservatives sowed the seed for much of the chaos in Brent's schools. Our Fine Arts special issue stretches from Rodin through grottoes to the auction rooms.

And Alexander Chancellor recalls how his sister's 200 word solution to the Suez Crisis took him to Jamaica.

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# Lawson tells MPs of big increase in public spending

Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, in his autumn statement, said: Cabinet today agreed the Government's public expenditure plans for the next three years.

In the normal course of events that would be followed by the publication of the printed autumn statement, accompanied by an oral statement to the House next Tuesday. For obvious reasons that is not possible this year.

So while the autumn statement will be printed in the normal way and presented to Parliament as soon as the House reconvenes next Wednesday, I thought it would be for the convenience of the House if I made my oral statement today.

This will cover all three of the key elements in the printed statement: the Government's outline public expenditure plans

## Non-oil tax revenues continue buoyant

for each of the next three years and the expected outcome for this year. Proposals for next year's national insurance contributions, and the forecast of the economic prospects for 1987 required by the 1975 Industry Act.

The full text of the economic forecast, together with the public expenditure figures and the rest of the information customarily published with this statement will be available as soon as I have said down. They will also appear in the printed autumn statement to be published next week.

I turn first to the outcome for the current financial year, 1986-87.

The public expenditure planning total now looks likely to amount to almost £140.5 billion, £1.25 billion, or a little less than 1 per cent, above what was allowed for in this year's Public Expenditure White Paper. The main reason for this excess is a 9 per cent rise in the spending of local authorities — far more than was provided for.

However, other items on the expenditure side, the largest of which is debt interest, are likely to fall short of what was forecast at the time of the Budget, thus reducing the total overrun on the expenditure side to about £0.5 billion.

On the receipts side, the North Sea tax take is likely to be even lower, by about £1 billion, than I envisaged at the time of the Budget, largely because for a long period the oil price has been below the \$15 a barrel level on which the Budget arithmetic was explicitly based.

This shortfall, however, is more than offset by the continuing buoyancy of non-oil tax revenues, in particular value-added tax and corporation tax. Non-oil revenues now look likely to exceed the Budget forecast by £2 billion. This would imply a net overrun on the receipts side of about £1 billion, rather more than that on the expenditure side.

But this will be reduced by a change I propose to make to the North Sea tax regime.

The collapse of the oil price has led to a sharp cutback in investment activity in the North

## Oil price collapse has reduced North sea investment

Sea, with inevitable consequences for the UK offshore supplies industry both in Scotland and the North East of England.

I therefore propose, on a carefully targeted basis, to accelerate the arrangements for the repayment to the oil companies of advance petroleum revenue tax due to them.

The details of this change, which will require legislation early in the new session of Parliament, are set out in a press notice which will be issued as soon as I have said down. The new arrangements will have a revenue cost this financial year of some £300 million which will be fully recouped over the next three years.

Taking this into account, the public sector borrowing re-

quirement for the current year is still forecast to be about £7 billion, the figure I set in the Budget.

I turn now to public expenditure plans for the next three years.

Since 1982-83, public spending, both before and after deducting the proceeds of privatization, has been declining as a proportion of national output. It is set to be lower still this year.

The Government is determined to ensure that this trend continues: to see to it that total public spending, even without taking account of privatization proceeds, continues to decline as a percentage of GDP.

Plans I am about to announce for the next three years secure that objective. Indeed they show that by the end of the period the ratio of public spending to national output will be back to the level of the early 1970s.

But within this overall constraint, and in the context of its policy priorities, the Government has felt it right to allow an increase in the previously announced planning totals for 1987-88 and 1988-89.

Compared with the prospective outcome for the coming year, we are now planning for an average growth in the public expenditure planning total of about 1 1/4 per cent a year in real terms, well within the prospective growth of the economy as a whole.

The new planning totals have thus been set at £148.5 billion for 1987-88 and £154.25 billion for 1988-89, an increase of £4.75 billion and £5.5 billion respectively over the totals previously published. For 1989-90 the planning total has been set at £161.5 billion.

As usual, these totals incorporate estimates for the proceeds of privatization.

## We are leaving scope for spending on services

substantially to £4.75 billion in each of the three survey years, a figure which I expect to be duly achieved this year. Although the privatization programme is now moving ahead more strongly than ever before, I have decided to make only a modest further addition to £5 billion in each of the next three years.

The new planning totals also contain substantial reserves rising from £3.5 billion in 1987-88 to £7.5 billion 1989-90.

The public expenditure increases I have announced allow for a realistic provision both for local authority current expenditure over which the Government has no direct control, and demand-led programmes such as social security, while still leaving scope for increased spending on services which the Government attaches particular priority.

But before referring to some of the more important changes let me make one thing absolutely clear. There can be no question of allowing the projected increases in public expenditure over the next two years to undermine the prudence of the Government's overall fiscal stance. The Government's fiscal stance has been clearly set out in the medium-term financial strategy published at the time of this year's Budget. There will be no relaxation of that stance.

Within the totality of public expenditure, the largest increase is for the local authorities, whose current spending next year is now put at £4 billion above the previous provision.

This is part reflects the fact that the previous plans simply carried forward the state level of advance spending as in 1986-87.

At the same time we are increasing next year's aggregate Exchequer grant — a contribution that taxpayers make to local government spending — by almost 10 per cent over this year's settlement, a rise of almost £1.5 billion.

These substantial sums demonstrate in particular the priority the Government is giving to education which, including the new proposals on pay and conditions of service for teachers announced last week, ac-

counts for about the increase in provision. There is also a substantial increase in provision for the police.

On top of the increased provision for the cost of education in schools, which is contained within local authority current spending, there will be additional spending on the universities of £60 million in 1987-88 and £70 million in 1988-89.

Spending on the health and personal social services will be increased by £600 million. For the national health service alone, the increase in England amounts to over £300 million a year. Combined with the additional resources being generated by greater efficiency, this will not only enable the health service to cope with the growing number of elderly patients but will also allow it to improve services.

Gross provision for housing investment is being increased by £450 million. This will sustain the rising trend of spending on local authority renovation and improvements and provide additional resources for the housing associations.

In the light of this year's experience, £1.75 billion has been added to next year's provision for social security, most of which represents a greater expected expenditure on existing means-tested benefits.

Provision for investment in roads is being increased by £65 million next year and £75 million the year after, mostly for local authority roads.

For defence, the provision remains as planned in the last White Paper after allowing for minor changes, including a reduction in the estimated cost of the Falklands deployment.

The defence programme will continue to benefit from the substantial real growth in previous years after allowing for minor changes, including a reduction in the estimated cost of the Falklands deployment.

Taking all programmes together, the additions to planned capital expenditure amount to getting on for £1 billion in 1987-88, of which about two-thirds is local authority spending.

Further details of these and other changes will be contained in the printed autumn statement, which will be published as soon as the House returns next week. In addition, full details, together with information on running costs and manpower, will be given in the Public Expenditure White Paper early in the new year.

I now turn to national insurance contributions.

The Government have conducted the usual autumn review of contributions in the light of advice from the Government Actuary on the prospective income and expenditure of the national insurance fund, and taking account of the benefit-uprating which the Secretary of State for Social Services announced on Oct 22.

The lower earnings limit will be increased next April to £39 a week, in line with the single person's pension, and the upper



WATSON

earnings limit will be similarly raised to £295 a week.

The limits for the reduced rate bands which I announced in last year's Budget will also be increased again in April, but by proportionately larger amounts. The upper limit for the 5 per cent and 7 per cent bands will be raised to £65 a week and £100 a week, respectively, and the upper limit for the 9 per cent rate for employers will be raised to £150 a week.

The taxpayer's contribution to the National Insurance Fund — the so-called Treasury Supplement — will be reduced by 2 per cent to 7 per cent, but this will not require any change in contribution rates.

Thus the main Class I contribution rates will once again remain unchanged at 9 per cent for employees and 10.45 per cent for employers.

Finally, I turn to the Industry Act Forecast.

Both growth and inflation have turned out to be slightly lower this year than I envisaged at the time of the Budget.

Growth now looks like turning out at 2 1/2 per cent, against a Budget forecast of 3 per cent, and inflation in the fourth quarter of 1987 is likely to be 3 1/4 per cent, against the Budget forecast of 3 1/2 per cent.

The principal reason for this slower growth has been the disappointing performance of exports, which were held back by the cutback in spending by Opec and other primary producers affected by the sharp fall in

commodity prices in general and the oil price in particular.

Combined with a having in the value of our own oil exports this has meant a significant deterioration in the current account of the balance of payments, from a surplus of some £3.5 billion in 1985, and a cumulative surplus of £21 billion over the six years from 1980 to 1985 inclusive, to a forecast of broad balance for 1986.

Looking ahead to 1987, the prospects are generally encouraging.

The necessary adjustment of the exchange rate to the oil-price collapse has now taken place. It will inevitably take time before the full benefits come through in higher non-oil exports and lower import growth. This means we can expect the current account of the balance of payments to go into deficit next year, for the first time since 1979.

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# Tories swerving and skidding, claims Hattersley

Much of the Government's policy for almost eight years had been designed to hold down interest rates. Yet today real interest rates were not only the highest in this country's history but the highest in the industrial world. During the past seven years Britain had lost more jobs than the rest of the EEC combined, Mr Roy Hattersley (Birmingham, Labour), chief Opposition spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs, said.

He was moving a motion condemning the Government's continued operation of economic policies producing intolerable levels of unemployment, prohibitive interest rates, cuts in public sector capital spending, the destruction of the nation's manufacturing base and a serious loss of the British share in world trade.

It called on the Government to accept that its economic strategy had failed and to replace it with policies for the real economy which promoted investment, growth, employment and exports.

He said anyone who heard today's statement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer would agree that the Government was certainly not steering the same course as last year. It was steering no steady course at all.

Part of the reason for the swerving and skidding was the result of the new ambiguities over the mid-term financial strategy. The Chancellor said this was still in place, but that view was not accepted anywhere outside the House. The strategy was either mortally wounded or dead, and so it should be.

It was built around the implicit faith that rigorous fiscal and monetary policies inevitably led to solutions of the problems of the real economy. That was clearly not so.

It was 1979 the BBC had predicted that the result of seven years of Conservative Government would be record unemployment and real interest rates, a collapse in the balance of payments and a net job loss of two million. The chairman of the Conservative Party would have accused the corporation of Bolshevik bias.

The Government's failure was the Chancellor's personal fault. Although he said that, all that meant was that the country was no longer doing worse than on the day the Conservatives were elected.

"We are still doing remarkably well," he said. "Since 1979, the economy has expanded at an average of 1.4 per cent. In the previous 30 years, it was 2.6 per cent."

A combination of expanding world trade and a boom in

consumer spending had caused imports to rise at an even faster rate.

The Chancellor never told the whole truth, particularly in the fields of trade, exports and imports.

"The Chancellor will say anything to get out of a critical corner. Trapped in a sinking ship, he always knows his integrity is overboard and we hear the splash almost at once."

North Sea oil was running out. Every time the markets caught a glimpse of what the British economy would be like when the oil was gone, they withdrew their confidence.

Would unemployment be down to three million by the next general election? What would the number of jobs, real interest rates and manufacturing output and investment be back to the 1979 level? Would the balance of payments be in surplus or deficit?

The Prime Minister had promised in 1979 to create the conditions for real jobs so that products streamed from the factories and workshops while the consequences of the world recession were over each other.

"She has done the exact opposite. Unemployment has risen by two million. The factories and workshops are starved of investment and have gone into liquidation in recent years. I do not believe that the Prime Minister ever made a more cynical promise or ever broke her word more cynically."

Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, moved the Opposition motion congratulating the Government on the success of its economic policies which had brought inflation down to its lowest level for two decades, created a new boom in the economy, a million new jobs created since 1983, steadily rising living standards and record levels of investment.

He said the coming year would be yet another year of steady progress with healthy growth and low inflation. The steady progress seemed almost routine and was now taken for granted. Yet it represented a remarkable turnaround because not so long ago they were debating whether there could be sustained economic growth without a damaging increase in inflation.

Oil prices had halved since this time last year and Britain had therefore lost half its oil revenues and half the value of its oil exports.

Yet the economy had remained on track and that was a remarkable achievement.

Britain had been able to weather the collapse in oil prices because of the underlying strength and resilience of its economy.

## Thatcher refuses to be drawn

PRIME MINISTER

The Prime Minister refused to be drawn by Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, into making a judgement between complaints by Mr Norman Tebbit about the BBC's coverage of the Libya bombing and the government's response.

Mr Kinnock, during Prime Minister's questions, recalled that Mrs Thatcher had told him on Tuesday that it was for the governors of the BBC to reply to the attacks made by Mr Tebbit, chairman of the Conservative Party.

"Now that the governors have convincingly rebutted 39 out of the 40 charges made by him, does the Prime Minister agree with them or with him?"

Mrs Thatcher said it is for the governors to answer the complaints (Opposition laughter). Perhaps Mr Kinnock will recognize that freedom of speech involves also the freedom to make complaints.

Mr Kinnock asked the governors of the BBC how they had discharged their duty to freedom which is more than can be said for the Prime Minister.

Mrs Thatcher retorted that, bearing in mind Mr Kinnock's Labour associates who tried to restrict the circulation of free newspapers, "he is hardly in a position to make complaints himself".

Mr James Callaghan (Cardiff South and Penarth, Lab), former Prime Minister, asked how the Government's commitment to a monetary policy that will squeeze out inflation remains unshaken.

Meanwhile, the likelihood of faster growth next year, coming at a time when unemployment already appears to have stopped rising, suggests that the prospects for some fall in unemployment are now more promising. But this promise could still be frustrated by excessive pay settlements.

The strategy we have followed since 1979 has brought inflation down to the lowest level for two decades, combined with sustained growth and steadily rising living standards. This is a combination that has eluded successive governments for a generation. We have brought it about by a determined pursuit of free markets and sound money. And that is what we will stick to.

## Cash for defence remains as planned

1979, to the tune of some £1.5 billion.

Even so, non-oil exports are forecast to rise next year by 5 1/2 per cent compared with an increase of only 1 per cent this year, with manufacturing output, in consequence, up by 4 per cent. And, with domestic demand continuing to expand at the same rate as this year, the economy overall is likely to grow by a further 3 per cent next year, the sixth successive year of steady growth at an average annual rate of almost 3 per cent.

Recorded inflation is likely to edge up a little, to 3 1/4 per cent in the fourth quarter of 1987. This is almost entirely due to the effect on the RPI of the timing of mortgage-rate changes.

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## Reform plan for EEC food aid

By Richard Evans, Political Correspondent

Britain is on the verge of persuading its EEC partners to agree to a radical reform of the Community's £330 million-a-year food-aid package for developing countries.

After a hectic bout of shuttle diplomacy between European capitals, Mr Christopher Patten, the recently appointed Minister for Overseas Development, is increasingly confident that he will win support in Brussels next week for new measures which will:

● Cut the links between food aid and the common agricultural policy so that developing countries get help they need, rather than surplus food that Europe wants to get rid of

● Remove bureaucratic red tape to make emergency food aid more effective

● Achieve better value for money for the EEC and developing countries.

The EEC's attempts to help countries struck by famine have been repeatedly criticized, especially as the aid policy was originally used as a

## Kinnock to wear red poppy

By Angela Johnson

Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, has joined in the dispute over white poppies being included at Remembrance ceremonies and has refused to wear one.

The Poppy League Union sent white poppies for him and his wife Glenys to wear at the Cenotaph ceremony on Sunday, but Mr Kinnock says he will wear a red one.

In a letter to the union, he said: "As someone who has neither pacifist convictions nor militarist views, I shall be wearing the red poppy for Remembrance."



## CHANCELLOR'S AUTUMN STATEMENT

## Lawson expects consumer spending will bring upturn

By David Smith, Economics Editor

The Treasury is expecting an upturn in growth in the economy next year, led again by consumer spending.

Inflation is forecast to stay under 4 per cent but the balance of payments will be in deficit next year, for the first time since 1979.

The current account deficit is the main feature of the official forecast, which the Treasury is required to publish twice a year under the terms of the 1975 Industry Act.

At the time of the Budget in March, the prediction was for a current account surplus of £3.5 billion this year. Now, the surplus is put at zero for 1986, running into a deficit of £1.5 billion next year.

The deterioration in Britain's external position, the Treasury said, was due to the fall in oil prices, the strength of non-oil imports and the disappointing performance, until recently, of British exports.

Those factors, notably the performance of exports, are expected to move gradually back into Britain's favour next year. However, continued strong growth in consumer spending, expected to rise by 4 per cent next year, will continue to suck in imports.

That has been a key factor behind the sharp worsening of

ECONOMIC PROSPECTS			
	Forecast	Average errors from past forecasts	
	1986	1987	
<b>A Output and expenditure at constant 1980 prices (% change)</b>			
Domestic demand	3.5	3.5	1.0
of which:			
Consumers' expenditure	5.0	4.0	1.25
General government consumption	1.5	1.5	1.0
Fixed investment	2.0	2.5	2.25
Change in stockbuilding (% GDP)	0	0.5	0.75
Exports of goods and services	1.0	3.0	2.5
Imports of goods and services	5.0	4.5	3.0
Gross domestic product	2.5	3.0	.75
Manufacturing	0	4.0	2.5
<b>B Balance of payments</b>			
Current Account (£bn)	0	-1.5	3.0
<b>C Inflation</b>			
Retail prices index (% change Q4 to Q4)	3.25	3.75	2.25
Deflator for GDP at market prices (% change on prev yr)	3.0	3.75	2.0
<b>D Money GDP at market prices (% change on prev yr)</b>			
	5.5	7.0	1.75

the current account in recent months. Some outside forecasters are expecting a current account deficit of £5 billion next year.

Oil prices are assumed to average \$15 a barrel next year and growth in the big seven economies to pick up from 2.5 to 3 per cent.

Export markets for Britain's manufacturers are expected to rise by 4.5 per cent, and export volume as a whole by 3 per cent, compared with an import volume increase of 4.5 per cent.

Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, said in his statement that both growth and

inflation have come out lower this year than expected eight months ago. Growth is estimated at 2.5 per cent and inflation in the current quarter at 3.25 per cent.

Next year, the inflation rate is expected to rise only slightly, to 3.75 per cent by the fourth quarter, and on that as well as the balance of payments the Treasury is at odds with many outside forecasters.

Economists believe that the pound's sharp fall and the prospect of higher oil prices will push the inflation rate above 5 per cent by the end of next year.

But the Treasury cites only the impact of higher mortgage rates in its forecast. Without those, it says, inflation would continue much as it is now.

By tradition, there is no forecast on unemployment in the autumn statement, but the Chancellor told the House: "The prospects for some fall in unemployment are now more promising. But this promise could still be frustrated by excessive pay settlements."

## City still expects Budget tax cuts

City economists, taken aback by the large increases in public spending, still expect sizeable tax cuts in the March Budget, although at the expense of control over public borrowing.

An independent run of yesterday's Treasury figures through its own economic model suggested that the Chancellor's room for manoeuvre next March is just £500 million, if he sticks with his targets.

"He has gone for a much larger reflation than we all thought," Mr Mike Osborne, of Kleinwort Greaveson, said. "But we can expect tax cuts as well, and a public sector borrowing requirement of as much as £10 billion next year."

The consensus among City economists was that he would manage to squeeze out at least £2 billion of tax cuts, enough to cut the basic rate of income tax by 2p. By doing this in train with large spending increases he will defuse criticism from within the Conservative Party.

## Public spending up £7.5bn

By Our Economics Correspondent

Public expenditure plans announced yesterday show significant increases in most areas. Spending for next year, 1987-88, is now planned to be £7.5 billion higher than in 1986-87.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer disclosed that the Government has failed to control public spending this year, in spite of the advantage of lower-than-expected inflation. The public spending plan for the current year, £1.3 billion up on the original target.

However, the main increases are for the later years. The plan for 1987-88, now targeted at £148.6 billion, compared with £143.9 billion at Budget-time.

In addition, the Chancellor has reduced the reserve from £6.3 billion to £3.5 billion and added an extra £250 million to sales of state assets.

These three changes add up to an additional £7.5 billion of spending. There is an extra £1.7 billion on social security, £2.2 billion on education, £2.3 billion on health and £460 million for the Department of Energy.

Local authority spending for the rate support grant is put at £4 billion. In the following year, 1988-89, the planning total for public spending is raised by £5.5 billion to £154.2 billion, and in 1989-90 the target is £161.5 billion.

policy. Until yesterday's statement, the Government made a virtue out of tight control of spending. Now it is expanding spending in a deliberate manner not seen since the Labour government's spending drive of 1974 and 1975.

The Chancellor justified that by the buoyancy of non-oil tax revenues, expected to be £2 billion higher than originally estimated this year, and by the fact that public spending as a proportion of gross domestic product is forecast to decline as a proportion of gross domestic product.

However, set against the new spending plans, this declining share requires continued growth in the economy.

## Public expenditure plans

Department	Estimated current		Changes from 1986 White Paper		Plans		Changes from 1986 White Paper	
	1986-87	1986-87	1986-87	1986-87	1987-88	1987-88	1987-88	1987-88
Ministry of Defence	16,800	70	16,730	16,980	19,470	-20	-10	-10
FCO - Diplomatic Wing	570	30	540	730	750	40	40	40
FCO - DDA	1,320	0	1,320	1,400	1,400	10	10	10
European Community	1,090	440	650	870	1,080	-280	-510	-510
IBAP and Other Cap	1,520	-20	1,500	1,780	1,880	40	120	120
Domestic Agriculture	920	80	840	900	900	60	60	60
Forestry	50	0	50	50	50	0	0	0
Department of Trade and Industry	1,370	80	1,290	900	950	20	20	20
Export Credits Guarantee Department	250	-50	200	110	50	-40	-20	-20
Department of Energy	170	50	120	-50	-250	460	230	230
Department of Employment	3,970	40	4,010	4,240	4,340	30	20	20
Department of Transport	4,380	130	4,510	5,080	5,140	300	270	270
DOE - Housing	2,850	0	2,850	3,020	3,080	360	130	130
DOE - PSA	90	0	90	90	90	40	40	40
DOE - Other Environmental Services	4,070	400	3,670	3,880	3,870	230	310	310
Home Office	5,280	540	4,740	6,700	5,870	830	680	680
Lord Chancellor's Department	620	30	590	720	770	80	80	80
Department of Education and Science	15,850	1,830	14,020	17,350	17,840	2,200	2,670	2,670
Office of Arts and Libraries	780	70	710	830	860	60	60	60
DOH - Health and PPS	17,980	130	18,110	19,840	20,720	830	700	700
DOH - Social Security	44,500	1,600	42,900	47,400	48,200	1,700	1,700	1,700
Chancellor's Departments	2,070	80	2,150	2,230	2,420	180	250	250
Territorial & Other Departments	17,000	400	17,400	18,300	18,800	900	1,100	1,100
Privatisation Proceeds	0	-5,000	0	5,000	5,000	-5,000	-250	-250
Reserve	-4,700	-4,400	-3,300	5,500	7,500	-2,500	-2,370	-2,370
Adjustments	-700	-30	-670	-270	-280	0	0	0
Planning Total	140,400	1,900	142,300	154,200	161,500	4,700	5,800	5,800
Nationalised Industries	290	20	270	290	290	20	20	20
A Expenditure Relevant for RSG	29,600	2,700	31,300	32,200	33,300	4,000	5,200	5,200
Other Departmental Spending	115,000	3,000	118,000	121,100	126,000	2,900	2,900	2,900
General Government Expenditure	164,400	1,000	173,700	179,600	187,800	4,200	4,900	4,900

Including local authority spending and nationalised industries external finance. \* Adjusted for Budget measures.

## Energy

## Sizewell delay put at £230m

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The delay in building Sizewell nuclear power station in Suffolk means the electricity supply industry will pay the Government more than £230 million extra in the next financial year.

The move change will have no effect on power prices for consumers.

The industry had expected its external financing limit next year to be similar to last year when it was given a negative borrowing limit of £1,068 million, but its new limit will be £1,305 million.

A negative external financing limit is effectively the level of payment that the industry will make to the Treasury in addition to its profits.

The other state-owned energy industry affected by the Chancellor's statement, British Coal, has had its borrowing limit - the amount of the planned subsidy to cover expected losses - set at £727 million for next year.

The smaller North Sea oil companies had their pleas to the Chancellor answered yesterday when he announced that repayment of £300 million of Advance Petroleum Revenue Tax (APRT) is to be brought forward from 1988.

## Home Office

## More police and new jails

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Nearly 3,000 more police, two additional new prisons and paid staff for local victim support schemes are among extra provisions in the law and order field, which is expected to be an issue in the general election.

The total increased provision for the police over the next three years is £1.26 billion.

Overall, there is provision for total police strength to rise to 124,363, and for civilian strength to increase to 46,434 by March 1988.

Additions for the prison service will allow for the design costs of two extra new jails to provide room for 1,200

prisoners. That brings the number of prisons in the building programme up to 20. Further support of £9 million over three years is provided for the victims of crime by strengthening the network of local voluntary victim support schemes.

To enable the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board to cope with an increasing number of applicants, its provision is increased by nearly 80 per cent in real terms from 1986-87 to 1989-90.

About £7 million will be available over three years to fund a big crime prevention advertising campaign on television to provide room for 1,200

The Government is allowing for an increase in immigration department staff to cope with increased pressures. About £3 million is being provided over three years for organizations meeting the needs of ethnic minorities.

The cost of the courts and legal aid in England and Wales is predicted to grow from an estimated £620 million this year to £770 million in 1989/90.

Legal aid and its administration accounts for two-thirds of the Lord Chancellor's budget. Its cost is expected to rise steadily from a total of £590 million by the end of this financial year to £575 million

## Nationalized industries

## Better cash performance expected

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Big improvements in the financial performance of nationalized industries are foreseen in the new figures covering the state sector's borrowings in 1987 to 1989, all designed to help the Government achieve its public spending plans.

The net total of external financing limits (EFLs) - outside loans guaranteed by the Government to cover losses and investment - is £2692 million against £2,193 million in the current financial year.

Compared with the last public expenditure White Pa-

per in January, most sectors have been given lower EFLs than envisaged. Some, notably the Post Office and the electricity industry, are called upon to pay over far less of their profits to the Treasury.

The cash deficit for the state industries in the coming year had been put at £392 million.

The British Steel Corporation, now back in profit, gets an EFL of £66 million against £146 million earmarked by the White Paper, while British Shipbuilders, which is still making losses but is much

signed down, has an EFL of £49 million against £73 million.

British Rail receives the lion's share of external finance with an EFL of £751 million, followed by British Coal with £727 million.

The Department of Trade and Industry's budget for next year has been set at £1,370 million, down by £160 million on the current year, but £60 million up on the January plans. The rise is due to increased spending on regional development grants



Mr Norman Fowler (left) with £526 million extra to spend on health, Mr Kenneth Baker (centre) who has £2,280 million more for education and Mr Nicholas Ridley, who negotiated an extra £230 million for housing.

## Environment

## Council home sales win day

By Michael Evans, Whitehall Correspondent

An unexpected increase in the sale of council houses under the Government's Right-to-Buy programme helped Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Secretary of State for the Environment, to squeeze an extra £230 million for the housing programme.

Mr Ridley admitted yesterday that he did not have to argue for long with the Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, for more money.

Housing is increasingly becoming a key issue in government strategy leading up to the election because of a steady rise in homelessness, especially among the young.

Yesterday it was announced that £451 million more than was planned will be spent on housing in 1987/8. But the Treasury will have to find only £230 million because of the increase in receipts from council house sales over the next three years, which are now expected to yield about £950 million more than forecast.

Today the Right-to-Buy programme will be given a further boost when the Housing and Planning Bill is given the Royal Assent. Under it council tenants in flats will benefit from a more generous discount.

The total amount of money that will be made available next year for capital expenditure by local authorities, the Housing Corporation will now be £3,661 million.

Mr Ridley emphasized yesterday that he would continue to dissuade councils from building new houses in order to ensure that the money is spent on repairs. It has been estimated that there is a backlog of repair to old council housing stock standing at about £20 billion.

Local authorities will be told their individual spending allocations in a few weeks time but Mr Ridley confirmed yesterday that he would stand by the commitment of his predecessor that no authority

## Education

## Large rise linked to pay deal

By Mark Dowd

Expenditure on education and science for 1987-88 will total £16,599 million, an increase of £2,280 million on the 1986-87 figure.

Planned local authority spending will rise to £12,850 million, which the Government says is an 18.8 per cent boost in cash terms on the figures given in the White Paper earlier in the year.

Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education, has included in this sum £460 million for teachers' pay, conditional on a satisfactory agreement.

Universities will receive an extra £95 million for recurrent and equipment grant, a 7.2 per cent increase on 1986-87.

Mr Baker made it clear yesterday that future funding would be in exchange for improvements in three areas: rationalization of small departments, better financial management and improved standards of teaching.

Universities will also be expected to develop special initiatives in teacher training and help to cope with the teacher shortfall in subjects such as mathematics, physics and technology.

The science budget, including money for the research councils, will receive an added £39 million in 1987-88, an increase of £24 million compared with the January White Paper predictions. It is envisaged that spending on science will rise from £654 million in 1987-88 to £680 million by 1989-90.

Local authority capital expenditure is expected to rise to £364 million, an extra £56 million. This increase, Mr Baker said, will allow a larger programme of repairs and maintenance in schools and help to increase spending on books and equipment.

## Health

## Budget increased by £626m

By Jill Sherman

The Government has reacted to widespread pressure for more funding for the National Health Service by allocating an additional £626 million for hospital and community health services next year.

This includes two new funds totalling £80 million, specifically set up to reduce waiting lists and to help avert financial problems in London health authorities.

The increase announced yesterday by Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, amounts to a 6 per cent rise in the present hospital and community health services budget of £10.28 billion and represents an additional 1.2 per cent over and above the previous estimate in

the White Paper earlier this year. Increases of 1 per cent are planned for 1988-89 and 1989-90.

Primary health care costs, which are not cash limited, are expected to rise by £300 million next year to £3.7 billion and will rise a further £0.5 billion in the following two years.

Total spending in Britain will rise from £18.75 billion this year to nearly £20 billion in 1987-88 and will reach more than £21.5 billion by 1989-90," Mr Fowler said.

Under the new waiting list fund, health authorities will be able to bid for money for specific initiatives to reduce waiting times. The money will be allocated to authorities who can demonstrate that they are

already managing resources effectively and that they need additional money to make faster progress, for example on more nursing staff or by appointing a bed manager.

The £30 million to be made available for regions which get less than national average growth - principally the four Thames regions - will be allocated to enable the health authorities to build up facilities in deprived areas outside main cities.

Personal social services will be increased by £300 million, equal to 7.5 per cent. For the first time the Government has included an additional 1 per cent, £27 million, to enable local authorities to build up services in support of community care policies.

## Defence

## Officials glad to escape cut

Officials within the Ministry of Defence were delighted last night at their treatment under the Chancellor's autumn statement.

The spending plans detailed by Mr Lawson yesterday mean that the defence budget for the year 1989-90 will rise by almost £500 million to a total of £19.47 billion.

Officials said the figure represented a real decrease of 1/4 per cent.

In the three years to 1988-89, the department had suffered cuts totalling 6 per cent. Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Defence, had fiercely argued in the so-called "star chamber" of ministers that his department had borne more than its fair share of cuts.

One senior Ministry of Defence official said last night: "We regard it as a reasonable and respectable settlement."

## Transport

## Big boost for road building

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

The Government is planning a significant increase in spending on road building during the next three years.

Commenting on the Chancellor's autumn statement yesterday, Mr John Moore, Secretary of State for Transport, said that capital spending on the motorway and trunk road network would increase by 5 per cent in the next financial year, 10 per cent in 1988-89 and 13 per cent in 1989-90.

Over the three years it was hoped to complete motorway and trunk road schemes totalling about 450 miles. Work was also expected to begin on schemes with a value of about £1.5 billion which will provide 350 miles of road.

In addition to this national road programme, for which the Department of Transport is responsible, local authority spending on road building is estimated to rise from £510 million in this financial year to £630 million next year.

Figures released yesterday confirm the trend of government spending on roads and transport since 1979.

Whitcomb sources say that between 1979 and 1986-87 the overall transport budget has fallen by 12 per cent in real terms, but within this overall total, spending on roads and investment by British Rail has increased by 15 per cent, while revenue subsidies to nationalized industries have fallen by 13 per cent.

The overall budget next year shows an increase of £220 million to £5.1 billion, but it is planned to fall to £5 billion in 1988-89.

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# MPs outraged over rebuff on ethnic number in services

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

The Ministry of Defence has refused to supply a Commons select committee with details of how many blacks and Asians there are in certain units of the Armed Forces.

The refusal was contained in a letter sent to the committee on Wednesday, the same day that Mr Roger Freeman, the Under Secretary of State for the Armed Forces, announced that ethnic monitoring of recruits is to be introduced next year.

The ministry is on a direct collision course with the Select Committee on Defence, which will discuss what action to take at a meeting next week. Options include a formal demand for the information or "inviting" ministry officials to appear before the committee for questioning.

The ministry explained its refusal by saying that the statistics required do not exist. This has cut little ice with certain committee members, however, who said yesterday that the request, covering no more than 10 named units, had been made last July and that "they could have bloody

well gone out and counted".

The committee is also keen to discover what promotion prospects blacks and Asians enjoy within the Armed Forces, and pointed out that this will not be disclosed by the monitoring announced by Mr Freeman.

One MP on the committee said that "considerable irritation" had been caused by the refusal.

He said: "I would be very surprised if the committee lets the matter lie here. This committee has a long history when it wants information of not being fobbed off. It is terrier like."

The committee asked for information on ethnic minority representation in the Armed Forces after suggestions earlier this year that blacks or Asians may be encouraged to join less fashionable branches of the Army, and the reported observation of the Prince of Wales that there were few black faces beneath the bearskins of the Guards' regiments.



Nearly 150 years ago, Welsh schoolchildren like these would already have been working underground as miners alongside their parents for a penny a day to augment the family income. Ironstone miners were paid by the ton and every extra nugget helped.

But now parties of schoolchildren - such as these from Coed Eira School, Gwent - come to Big Pit at Blaenavon in South Wales for academic reasons. Big Pit, which closed as a working colliery in 1980 after nearly 200 years of mining to supply fuel and raw materials, initially for the local ironworks, was reopened in 1983 as a living mining museum, the only coal and iron ore pit open to the public in western Europe.

# Wage rules 'could cost 600,000 jobs'

By Tim Jones

A Cabinet minister said yesterday that Britain could lose up to 600,000 jobs if left-wing Euro MPs succeed in their attempt to force governments to impose minimum standards of wages and social security within the Community.

The warning from Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Minister for Employment, came a day after Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, was harracked for telling union leaders that national wage deals were costing jobs.

Mr Clarke, a president of the Labour and Social Affairs Ministers, said the proposals by the Euro Labour groupings would do nothing to help employment in Britain. "No one really knows exactly how many jobs would be lost but it would certainly be a few hundred thousand and possibly as many as 600,000", he said.

The Labour groupings will try to force governments to adopt agreed standards on pay and benefits when the European Parliament meets next week.

In spite of mounting a strong rearguard action, Conservatives believe they will lose the vote to the socialists, who cling to entrenched positions which favour trade union power.

The split is so fundamental that it has already led to the resignation of one Christian Democrat as a rapporteur responsible for drawing up a document on how the European labour market could be restructured.

Tuckman, a Conservative spokesman on employment, which argued that Europe had to earn its living before it could distribute wealth, was also watered down.

Even if they win the vote next week, it is unlikely that employment ministers meeting next month will adopt the proposals. With huge anomalies such as a German worker earning in a month what a Portuguese worker earns in a year, a universal wage and social services policy would be too expensive to administer.

A report by Mr Fred

# Libya jets grounded for lack of pilots

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

Libya is unable to use two sophisticated jet planes after failing to recruit British pilots to fly them.

Now Libyan Arab airlines may have to try to sell the Airbus A310s it bought last year for more than £75 million.

Libya had been trying to buy Airbus jets to replace its ageing fleet for years, but an embargo on the sale of any American equipment to Libya closed supply routes.

So the Libyans mounted a complicated international undercover operation to buy two Airbus from British Caledonian, who thought the aircraft were going to a European charter organization.

The Libyans planned to use the planes for international services by the end of this year, but they had no maintenance facilities, no simulator to train engineers and pilots and no spare parts.

Advertisements appeared in technical and specialist magazines around the world for pilots and engineers, offering up to £40,000 a year tax free for anyone prepared to fly the Airbus. But so far there have been no takers.

The Department of Transport denied putting pressure on British staff.

# Bishop critical of justice for blacks

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Britain's first black bishop yesterday called for strong measures to eradicate racism from the criminal justice system.

The Bishop of Croydon, the Rt Rev Dr Wilfred Wood, said a wide-ranging anti-racist strategy was necessary if black people were to have confidence in the system.

He told the annual meeting of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders the proportion of black people in prison was more than double the proportion in the community. Black people entering prison also had fewer previous convictions than whites sentenced for similar offences.

Black defendants were significantly less likely to be granted bail than whites charged with the same types of crime, he said.

Decisions taken early in the law enforcement process contributed to the number of black people in prison. Young black people were stopped and

searched by the police roughly 10 times as often as whites. Young black offenders in London were significantly more likely to be cautioned and less likely to be cautioned than comparable whites.

"There are numbers of people who feel that the law does nothing to protect their rights to decent housing and fair opportunities for suitable employment. Many seem to have nothing to gain from the 'order' of society and nothing to lose by flouting it."

He called for personnel to be trained in working in a multi-ethnic society and for a more positive approach to the recruiting of black judges, magistrates, court clerks, lawyers and probation officers, as well as police officers.

There were only three black judges, fewer than 2 per cent of probation staff were black, and in most areas the percentage of black magistrates was less than half the proportion of black people in the local population.

# Maxwell denies he brings fear

Mr Robert Maxwell, publisher of the Daily Mirror, denied a suggestion in court yesterday that his reputation inspired fear and apprehension rather than respect.

He was being cross-examined on the fourth day of his High Court libel action against Private Eye, which is seeking to justify its allegation that he acted as "paymaster" for overseas trips by Mr Neil Kinnock, the leader of the Labour Party, in an attempt to be recommended for a peerage.

Mr Andrew Bateson, QC, for Private Eye, asked him: "Would you agree that your reputation is one of a man who inspires fear and apprehension rather than respect?"

"I would not agree," Mr Maxwell, who is chairman of Mirror Group Newspapers, said.

Mr Maxwell, aged 63, said that he was "appalled and shocked" at the "cruel and wicked" allegations against him by Private Eye. He said that they had not sought to justify the allegations.

In cross-examination he denied threatening Mr Kinnock that if he did not attend an anniversary party at the Daily Mirror the paper would not cover his African tour.

The magazine denies libel and claims what they published was true. They are counter-claiming libel damages over a Daily Mirror article last July which labelled them "The Public Lie".

In his opening speech to the jury, Mr Bateson said: "It is part of my clients' case that Mr Maxwell has a generally bad reputation and is an ambitious self-publicist and a bully."

The hearing continues.

# Yard drive on street crime

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Scotland Yard is to use undercover police patrols and surveillance operations to combat street crime in five inner city areas of London.

The decision to allocate more resources to fight street crime was taken this week at a two-day conference of the Yard's top officers.

They have identified Lambeth, Southwark, Hackney and parts of Haringey and Brent as areas of concern.

Local commanders are to use members of the newly-formed tactical support units, which come into operation in January as riot teams, to mount a plainclothes operation. They will monitor places which attract street crime, such as lonely alleys and underpasses.

Detectives will also be added to local intelligence units to target suspects with established records for street crime.

The concentration on street crime comes at a time when the Yard is considering greater use of civilian staff as one way of using its stretched police manpower. The police staff of the computerized information room, which handles London's 999 calls, could be replaced by civilian operators, who might also take over the manning of the computerized command centres at divisional police stations.

The Metropolitan Police is continuing to fail to meet its establishment level, because of natural wastage and officers leaving the force, often to transfer to other parts of the country.

# Print leaders face fine

Two print union leaders at the Mirror Group were warned by a High Court judge in London yesterday that they faced "substantial" fines and possible suspended jail sentences after he had found them guilty of contempt of court.

Mr Justice Mars-Jones said he will give his decision today on what penalty to impose on Mr Thomas Harrison, father (chairman) of Mirror Group Newspapers graphics chapel (office branch), and his dep-

uty, Mr Laurence Wells. The judge ruled that the two were guilty of a "flagrant" breach of an injunction granted to the Mirror Group by holding a chapel meeting on September 19 which halted production of the Daily Mirror.

But the judge acquitted the National Graphical Association of contempt because he was not satisfied that the officials were acting as "duly authorized agents" of the NGA in calling the meeting.

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# Ridley backs free market to increase rented housing

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Radical changes in the rented housing sector, including higher rents for council housing and moves towards deregulation of the private rented market, were hinted at yesterday by Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment.

Mr Ridley, the Cabinet's keenest exponent of privatization and leading enthusiast of the free market, spoke of his ideal for the rented sector as being "a pretty complete market, where people can move freely from one part of the country to another, from bigger to smaller accommodation, and to pay the

appropriate rent for whatever they choose to rent". He made clear, in an interview with *New Society* magazine, that he believes council rents are too low.

"The average local authority rent is £16 a week. We think the economic cost of those houses is £28 a week, and the private sector would need to let that house at £30 a week if a good landlord, with ordinary finance, is even going to cover his costs, let alone much of an element for profit."

He said that rent levels in the public and private made his desired expansion of the private sector more difficult to

achieve, and he foreshadowed changes on security of tenure for new lettings in the private sector.

Many of the ideas floated by Mr Ridley in his interview, and other equally far-reaching ones, are on the agenda for the secret Conservative manifesto group on housing, which Mr Ridley chairs.

He is understood to want to go further and faster towards a completely free market in housing than Mr John Patten, Minister for Housing.

On rent control, Mr Ridley said: "There are grave problems in dismantling it for existing tenants because of habits and history. People

have got into the habit of thinking they have got their tenancies for life, they have built their lives round that."

"Whether they should have had them in the first place is a totally separate question, but the vast amount of political upheaval and upset involved in taking away those rights is pretty daunting."

He adds, however: "But you can certainly do this for new lettings."

He said that control on rent was the biggest block on the provision of more private housing because it simply was not economic at existing fair rent levels to provide a house.

The security of tenure problem was much more for the private individual who had a few properties to let and found that, when something went wrong in his life, his asset was unrealizable.

Mr Ridley said: "So one has the choice between going the whole hog and doing away with both of them, or dealing with the rent problem alone. I do not think that dealing with the security of tenure problem and not the rent problems would have any effect at all."

He defended mortgage tax relief, although asked about the long term, he said: "Clearly if housing policy evolved in a different way my successors might want to do different things."

## Gazumping risk over delays

By Frances Gibb Legal Affairs Correspondent

House buyers risk being gazumped as a result of excessive delays by local authorities in undertaking local searches. In some cases prospective purchases are being delayed by more than four months.

The problem has become so acute that buyers are using private firms which make personal searches within 24 hours for between £40 and £70 plus VAT.

The matter has been taken up by the Law Society's non-contentious business committee, which says it is

"extremely concerned" about the delays, particularly among London boroughs.

Such delays "make it impossible", the committee says, for prospective purchasers to obtain replies by post in the usual way.

This prejudices those trying to buy who "run the risk of being gazumped because they cannot exchange contracts until they obtain essential information", the committee says in this week's *Law Society Gazette*.

Solicitors are being invited to submit evidence of delays of more than four weeks. Already there have been complaints against Tonbridge and Malling in Kent, and the London boroughs of Newham, Tower Hamlets and Lambeth.

One London solicitor sent searches to Lambeth on September 4 and had received no reply by October 30. He was told that searches were taking 15 to 16 weeks. The reason given was "shortage of staff and pressure of work".



Former Chief Petty Officer John Nelson, aged 73, receiving a commemorative medal yesterday from Mr Leonid Zamyatin, the Soviet ambassador to London, for 'services to the USSR during the Second World War'.

Mr Nelson was among 122 Royal Navy veterans presented with gold campaign medals for their role in running vital supply convoys to Russia.

Mr Zamyatin told the former sailors, members of the North Russia Club, that the medals, commemorating the fortieth anniversary of the war, were "tokens of our gratitude" from the President of the Supreme Soviet.

The presentations were made at the Russian embassy in London. Mr Zamyatin will present 148 other members of the club with medals later. British convoys, which ran

badly-needed supplies to the Soviet ports of Murmansk and Polynesia from 1941 to 1945, were constantly under attack.

Mr Nelson, from Gillingham, Kent, who served on the destroyer, HMS Whitehall, on 10 convoys, said: "It was a terrible time and the physical hardships we endured were far worse than the torpedoes. But then I had a charmed life and the ship was never hit." (Photograph: Tim Bishop).

## Teachers asked to help find boy

Teachers in private schools have been asked by a High Court judge to search for a missing boy after his father refused to tell the court where he was.

The judge, Mr Justice Sheldon, lifted reporting restrictions and asked for help in an attempt to find the boy, Peter Kane, aged 11, who is a ward of court, after his father, Mr Erich Kane, a wealthy international businessman, aged 47, admitted sending him to boarding school in England but refused to say which one. The boy's mother, Mrs Elisabeth Kane, aged 44, lives in Belgium but has been staying with relatives in Colbrook Avenue, Ealing, west London, since her search for her son began in September.

She had sent him on a two-week holiday to his grandparents in Vienna in July, and he went from there to his father's home in Switzerland. But he failed to return the boy to her.

There are no clues as to which school he is at, but the judge says he is to come forward and tell.

## £8,000 award in blood case

Miss Caroline Morgan, who was given the wrong type of blood during an operation at St Lawrence Hospital, Chepstow, was yesterday awarded £8,265 damages in the High Court and given hope by the judge.

Miss Morgan, aged 28, of Lambeth, south London, had thought the mistake would mean she could not have a baby by a man with rhesus positive blood, but Mr Justice Boreham said medical advances meant she had a 90 to 95 per cent chance of having a healthy baby.

## Appeals fee under attack

The Equal Opportunities Commission claims today that a government plan to charge applicants to industrial tribunals a £25 fee would damage progress against sex discrimination by stopping women making justified claims. The Government hopes a fee will cut "the cost and management effort" required to deal with ill-founded claims to industrial tribunals. But the commission says that adequate safeguards against these claims already exist.

## Major cleared in shop charge

A shoplifting charge against Major Barnaby Roffe-Smith, an officer in The Parachute Regiment, was withdrawn when the case came before magistrates at Aldershot, Hampshire, yesterday. Major Roffe-Smith, aged 38, a veteran of the Falklands campaign, had been accused of stealing goods worth £3.17 from a Gateway supermarket in Fleet, Hampshire, on August 22. But at yesterday's hearing the prosecution offered no evidence.

## Nurses return from Saudi

Three women who were detained in Saudi Arabia for a week for breaking Islamic law arrived back in London yesterday, the last of 29 British medical staff deported from Riyadh.

The two nurses and a secretary at the Military Hospital in Riyadh were arrested for accepting a lift from an unrelated man, which is an offence under Saudi law.

## Court upholds school closure

A small Essex community yesterday lost its High Court battle to save Ongar Comprehensive School which won the National Curriculum Award in 1984.

The court ruled that the county council had carried out adequate consultations before deciding to close it in 1989 because of falling pupil numbers.

## Guinness kidnap ordeal

Mrs Jennifer Guinness, a banker's wife, endured an eight-day ordeal at the hands of a kidnap gang after being seized at gunpoint from her home, the Circuit Criminal Court in Dublin was told yesterday.

Mr Anthony Kennedy, for the prosecution, said Mrs Guinness, who was tied up, chained and masked for some of the time, feared for her life because of the changing mood of her captors.

She was held at four different addresses before being released unharmed after an overnight siege outside a house in Waterloo Road, Dublin, on April 16.

Brian McNicholl, aged 49, of Waterloo Road, Dublin, who is said to have admitted organizing the kidnapping, pleaded not guilty to falsely imprisoning Mrs Guinness and to having a gun with intent to endanger life.

Three men sentenced earlier were arrested in or near the house from which Mrs Guinness was freed. Mr McNicholl was detained by police later that day when he turned up at the house with a woman friend, Mrs Clara Lenihan.

Mrs Lenihan lived at the Waterloo Road address but had nothing to do with the kidnapping, Mr Kennedy said.

On the day Mrs Guinness was due to be moved to the siege house, they drove to Co Westmeath and saw a friend of Mr McNicholl, Mr James Clark.

Mr McNicholl, said to have been ash-faced, asked to talk to Mr Clark urgently and told him: "I am in terrible trouble; my boys kidnapped Mrs Guinness". He later added: "My boys would never tell on me. I organized the kidnapping." Mr McNicholl and Mrs Lenihan then drove back to Dublin to be met by the police.

Mr Kennedy told the jury it was as plain as a "pikistaff" that a lot of force was used throughout the kidnapping. Three other men have already been jailed for their part in the kidnapping of Mrs Guinness from her home at Howth, Dublin, in an unsuccessful attempt to get a £2 million ransom.

On Wednesday, Anthony Kelly, who is sought by Yorkshire police in connection with crimes including the murder of a police sergeant in Leeds, was sentenced to 14 years by the court.

Last May, John and Michael Cunningham, brothers, were imprisoned for 17 years and 14 years respectively.

## Fixed price heat saves bill worries for elderly

The Electricity Council announced yesterday the introduction of a remote-controlled heating scheme designed specifically for elderly people.

The scheme, called Budget Warmth, will be operational in six electricity board areas where more than 5,000 systems will be installed this winter.

About 40,000 more elderly people die in winter than during the rest of the year, according to the British Medical Association. Many of those deaths are caused by hypothermia.

Budget Warmth will provide customers with one-room heating at a known weekly cost ranging from £2.28 to £4.37. The heating is remotely controlled by the Electricity Board via radio

teleswitch in line with local weather forecasts.

The scheme, which has been introduced on a pilot basis, is part of a drive to ensure that those most vulnerable to the cold have adequate heating without the worry of bills.

Sir Philip Jones, chairman of the Electricity Council, said that the Budget Warmth scheme was being introduced on a pilot basis to see if customers, especially the elderly and infirm, found it helpful.

We hope that the scheme will ease their worries about heating bills and ensure that they keep warm throughout the winter," Sir Philip said.

The boards taking part in the scheme are Eastern, East Midlands, North Eastern, South Eastern, Southern and Yorkshire.

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WORLD SUMMARY

## Landmark bill on immigration

Washington — President Reagan yesterday signed an historic immigration bill aimed at stemming the flood of illegal aliens into the United States (Mohsin Ali writes).

He described the bill as the most comprehensive reform of US immigration laws since 1952, and said: "Future generations of Americans will be thankful for our efforts to humbly regain control of our borders, and thereby preserve the value of one of the most sacred possessions of our people, American citizenship."

The landmark bill provides amnesty for illegal aliens who came to the United States before 1982 and civil and criminal penalties for employers who hire illegal aliens in the future.

According to official estimates there may be as many as eight to 12 million aliens living illegally in the United States, and 6 million more attempt to enter each year, mainly across the 2,000-mile US-Mexican border.

## Prices frozen

Athens — Greece yesterday ordered a three-month price freeze on all domestic and imported goods and services to discourage profiteering over the introduction of value added tax on January 1 (Mario Modiano writes).

A presidential decree that Parliament must ratify within 40 days ruled that all prices remain at the level of November 4 until January 31. Offenders face six months' jail or a fine of £2,600, or both.

## Life jail for spy

Baltimore (Reuters) — Former Navy officer and admitted spy John Walker Jr has been sentenced to concurrent life terms for masterminding an espionage ring that sold military secrets to the Soviet Union for 17 years.

His son, Michael, a former Navy seaman, was jailed for 25 years for his role in the scheme.

The judge said he wanted Walker to serve out his sentence for the rest of his natural life.

## Kohl under fire again

Bonn — Chancellor Kohl, already in international trouble over his Gorbachev-Goebbels gaffe, yesterday ran into domestic flak on it in a stormy debate in the Bonn Parliament (John England writes).

The Social Democratic and Green opposition parties called for him to be relieved of his post, and said his "laughable" attempts to mend fences with Moscow over his "incredible" blunder were too little, too late.

Herr Kohl had once again said he regretted that a false impression had arisen from his interview with the US news magazine *Newsweek* that he had compared Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, to Dr Josef Goebbels, the Nazi Propaganda Minister.

## Baby for dissident

Tel Aviv (Reuters) — Mrs Avital Sharansky, wife of former Soviet dissident Mr Anatoly Sharansky, yesterday gave birth to a daughter nine months after being reunited with her husband.

Mrs Sharansky, aged 36, emigrated to Israel a day after their marriage in July 1974, but Mr Sharansky was refused an exit visa.

## Kim may not run

Seoul — Mr Kim Dae Jung, the prominent opposition leader, has said that he will not run for president in 1988 if the Government heeds his call for direct presidential elections (NYT reports).

Western diplomats and opposition politicians here say his decision will put the Government on the defensive and reinvigorate the opposition.

## Call for 'bipartisan co-operation' after election battering

# Reagan to woo Senate

From Michael Binyon Washington

President Reagan's defiant statement that he has no intention of becoming a "lame duck" during his last two years comes as he is preparing to adopt a conciliatory approach to the newly-elected Democratic-controlled Senate.

Mr Reagan said he was looking forward to a period of "hard work and bipartisan co-operation" when Congress returns in January — in contrast to his earlier predictions during the election campaign of "two years of stalemate" if the Republicans lost control of the Senate.

But the President, known for his pragmatism when the odds are against him, will probably spend much more time consulting Democratic leaders and briefing senators on his measures and more controversial proposals.

Administration officials admit that the situation is now much more difficult for him, and conciliation is the watchword. However, they insist that he will press forward with his political agenda unchanged and will make concessions in maintaining US military preparedness and reducing domestic government spending.

"For this administration, peace through strength is more than a policy; it's a promise — a promise we've made to the people."

## US MID-TERM ELECTIONS

people and a promise we intend to keep," Mr Reagan said. "Hope alone can never lead to agreement with the Soviets."

The White House now has time to work out a strategy of how to co-operate with Congress, as the long recess gives the Administration some breathing space.

It is hoping to establish new momentum in arms control talks as a way of building up bipartisan support on foreign policy in an area where there is broad agreement between Democrats and Republicans.

One confrontation is likely to develop, however, on trade policy as the Democrats will use their new strength to press for further protectionist measures.

Already Senator Robert Byrd of West Virginia, the



Senator Robert Byrd of West Virginia, right, receiving a silk jacket from Senator George Mitchell of Maine as a memento of the 55-45 Senate advantage the Democrats hold.

majority leader-designate, has said a new trade Bill will be on the President's desk as soon as possible.

Mr Donald Regan, the White House Chief of Staff, said the Democrats will have trouble finding enough votes to override the veto which Mr Reagan is certain to impose on any harshly protectionist legislation.

## Late results from the polling

The following results in the House of Representatives were declared too late for yesterday's early editions. The figure for the district number is followed by the winning party and candidate's name. Lines in bold indicate the seat changed hands. A date in brackets shows when an incumbent was first elected. New representatives have D or R in brackets to indicate the party that previously held the seat.

**California**  
38 R Robert Dornan (76)  
**Illinois**  
21 D Charles Price (44)

**Michigan**  
10 R William Schmetz (84)

**Minnesota**  
2 R Vin Weber (80)

**Montana**  
2 R Ron Marlenee (76)

**Nevada**  
2 R Barbara Vucanovich (82)

**New Jersey**  
3 D James Howard (64)

**New York**  
30 D Louise Slaughter (R)

**North Carolina**  
11 D James Clarke (R)

## Blacks flocked to vote

From Christopher Thomas Washington

Black voters in southern states played a central role in scuttling President Reagan's hopes of retaining Republican control of the Senate.

The result points to a trend that threatens to make the Democrats the "black" party of Dixie, while the Republicans become the "white" party.

The black turnout nationally was close to the overall national turnout of about 38 per cent, far greater than usual, and the result of an intensive black voter registration drive.

Republican hopes of a fundamental realignment in Dixie away from the historical support of the Democratic Party may be coming true in the case of whites, although the process is obviously happening slowly. But support for the Democrats was as high as 88 per cent.

This polarization in the Senate races was less striking in the voting pattern for the House of Representatives and for state legislatures. But the trend is unmistakable. According to exit polls the white vote in Senate races in Alabama, North Carolina, Louisiana and California split roughly equally overall between Republicans and Democrats. But the black vote was monolithically Democratic.

**Texas**  
14 R David Sweeney (84)

**Washington**  
1 R John Miller (84)

In addition the district 10 result for Florida was at first declared for the wrong candidate. The result should have read:

10 R Andy Ireland (76)

In the results of gubernatorial races yesterday Democrat Anthony Earl was inadvertently denoted the winner in Wisconsin, although the vote tallies were correct. The winner was Republican Tommy Thompson.

## COMMENTARY



Geoffrey Smith

Sometimes in politics small causes have much larger consequences. So it is likely to prove with the Democratic party's recapture of the American Senate.

The mid-term elections were not a test of President Reagan's popularity. With a few exceptions, such as agricultural policy in some of the farming states, they were not about issues of any national consequence.

So when I arrived in the United States at the end of last week, I thought it might not make all that much difference whether or not the Republicans managed to keep control of the Senate. Most of the Democrats taking over committee chairmanships would be on the moderate wing of the party and they would not wish to pick a fight with a President who retained his astonishing personal popularity.

But the more I have spoken to Republicans themselves, in and out of the Administration, the more I have come to revise that initial judgment. A distinction should be drawn between the effect of the loss of the Senate on Mr Reagan himself and on the Administration.

With another President, the damage might have been severe. Here is a leader who campaigned extensively, who attacked his opponents, often in harsh personal terms, who apparently committed much political capital to the struggle and whose appeal was then rejected by the voters in the races that mattered most.

But Mr Reagan has a personal standing that transcends normal political considerations. It does not appear to be diminished either by failure or by disagreement. He may not be able to win enough votes for his supporters but he will retain the affection and the approval of the country.

The impact of the Senate defeat will be much more severe, however, on his Administration. That is true even though the Republicans

did not do at all badly in the other elections this week.

At this stage, after six years in office and with no more than another two years to go, some exodus of people just below Cabinet level would have been expected anyway. Some are exhausted and others will want to move to lucrative jobs outside government while this Administration remains in office and their connection with it confers prestige. This exodus will now be all the greater because it will become significantly harder for the Administration to get any fresh initiative through Congress.

The Democratic leadership in the Senate is unlikely to go out of its way to quarrel with the Administration. It will be wary of Mr Reagan's continuing popularity and it will not want to present a target for Republican criticism in 1988.

None the less, there will be some areas where the Democrats will be expected to make things difficult for the Administration — on aid for the Contras in Nicaragua, for example, on defence spending in general and possibly on the Strategic Defence Initiative in particular. There will be a good many more areas where they will not be deliberately disruptive but where they will be less helpful and less prepared to take political risks than Republican committee chairmen would have been.

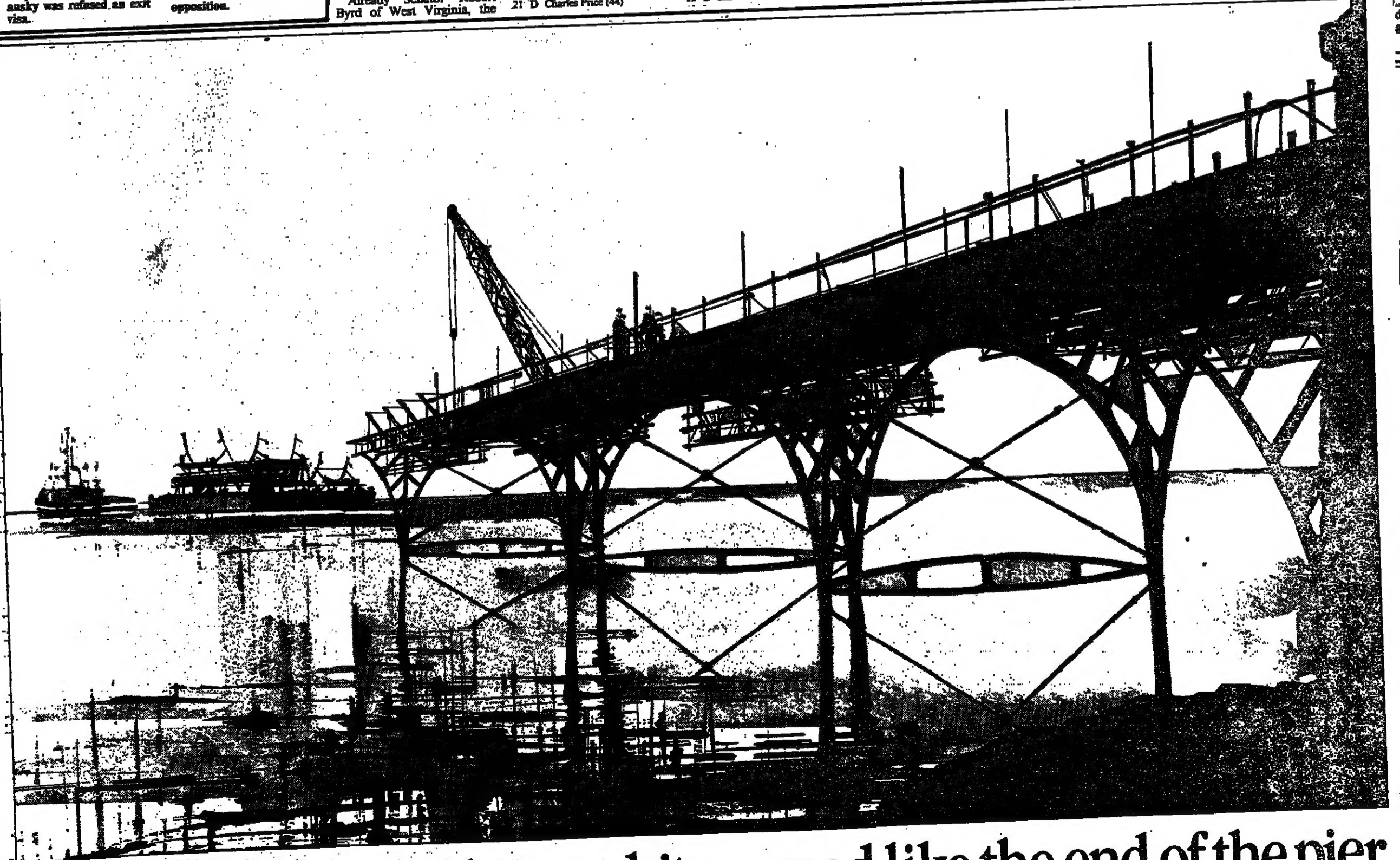
## Scope for positive action restricted

These tendencies will reinforce each other. The more people leave the Administration at that critical level where the specifics of policy initiatives are developed, the fewer bold new ideas will be presented to Congress. The more Congress resists new initiatives, the more likely it is that capable people will leave the Administration because they feel that they can no longer accomplish much.

Even if the change of personnel within the Administration — and also on the Senate committee staffs now that the Democrats are taking over the chairmanships — were only to slow down the policy flow for a while, it would still be a critical loss of momentum.

There could not in the best of circumstances be much more than a year available to the Reagan Administration for substantial new initiatives. From early 1988 the political process will become overwhelmed by the presidential primaries.

So the prospect is not of a lame duck President, but of an Administration whose scope for positive action will be much restricted.



# When the oil price slumped, it seemed like the end of the pier.

An unlikely story at first sight, perhaps. But one which well illustrates the 'ripple-effect' that can operate in the world's economy.

When the oil price took a tumble, so unfortunately did many companies. Among them was a large and long-established engineering concern.

Its collapse threatened to bring to a halt the restoration of one of England's most cherished piers, upon which the company had been working until its demise.

Happily, work on the pier was not after all interrupted, thanks to the swift initiative of the receiver.

Also unaffected were thirty eight of the creditors with whom the ill-fated company had been associated.

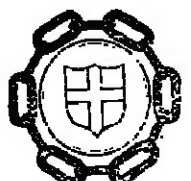
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# White woman member of ANC sentenced to 25 years for treason

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

A white woman who confessed to being a member of the military wing of the outlawed African National Congress (ANC) and planting bombs in three police stations earlier this year was sentenced yesterday to 25 years in prison for treason and arson.

There were cries of "Amanda, Awethu" ("Power to the people") from the mixed crowd packed into the public gallery of the Rand Supreme Court as the Miss Marion Sparg, holding a bouquet of yellow chrysanthemums given to her by a sympathizer, was escorted from the court by police.

Sparg, aged 28, who is one of the few whites and still fewer white women to be convicted of treason, pleaded guilty to all the charges against her. She accepted the judge's verdict with composure, and even managed a smile for her tearful mother in the gallery.

During the first two days of the three-day trial, Sparg wore a black suit and a green shirt, and yesterday added a yellow ribbon to complete the three colours of the ANC flag. She said that she regarded herself not as a traitor but as "a soldier and patriot" fighting to rid South Africa of the evil of apartheid, which she saw as a crime against humanity and a threat to world peace.

"Apartheid has to be destroyed and the only way to do so is by going to war," she said. "My motives, I feel, are not those of a murderer or killer or even of a saboteur... My motive is that of a soldier, a volunteer soldier, not one who is conscripted."

Sparg confessed to planting limpet mines in February and March of this year in toilets in police stations in East London and Johannesburg, and to petrol-bombing offices of the liberal opposition Progressive Federal Party (PFP) five years ago.

The limpet mines caused considerable damage and slightly wounded several policemen and civilians.

Sparg told the court she was fully aware that the mines could have killed people, but said she regarded the police as "combatants" and had tried to minimize the risk to civilians.

Police stations were symbols of the system which was protecting apartheid, Sparg maintained. She said she regretted the bombing of the PFP offices. She had been "confused and immature" at the time. She still disagreed with the party, but would not choose it as a target now.

Sparg said that a turning-point in her life was the death



Marion Sparg, admitted planting limpet mines.

of Mr Stephen Biko, the Black Consciousness leader, in police custody in 1977.

She had been horrified by the lack of concern of fellow white students at Rhodes University where she had been studying journalism at the time.

After practising for a while as a journalist, she left South Africa illegally in 1981, going to Botswana and then to Zambia.

From there she was sent by the ANC, which has its headquarters in Lusaka, the Zambian capital, to a camp in Angola for three months military training.

Sparg spent three years in Lusaka working in the ANC's information and publicity department, and was infiltrated back into South Africa via Lesotho in 1985 on a false passport.

Early this year she and an accomplice smuggled eight limpet mines into South Africa from Lesotho in the back-door panels of a hired car.

The judge, Mr Justice P J van der Walt, said it was "providential" that no-one had been killed as the result of Sparg's actions, and told her: "Had lives been lost, you would almost certainly have received the death penalty."

● Boesak pledges: Dr Allan Boesak, Moderator of the Coloured branch of the Dutch Reformed Church, said on Wednesday night that he would not hesitate to repeat acts for which he had been charged with subversion by the Government.



Three American sailors toasting Chen Ming, of the Chinese Navy, with local beer during a visit to a brewery at Qingdao yesterday. The occasion was part of the first official visit by three US warships to China in 57 years.

## Deadlock in Vienna

# Shultz and Shevardnadze bury hopes

From Andrew McEwen, Vienna

The brief Reykjavik flowering of hope for an end to the era of nuclear "overkill" yesterday remained where President Reagan and Mr Gorbachev left it — in limbo.

Two Vienna meetings between Mr George Shultz, the American Secretary of State, and his Soviet opposite number, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, ended in deadlock.

Shultz of a climbdown from fixed positions, there is now no prospect of anything but piecemeal preparatory agreements in the near future.

The original plan — that Reykjavik should pave the way for an historic disarmament summit — have been shelved.

President Reagan hopes that agreement will be reached before his term ends now look remote, although, as Mr Shultz pointed out yesterday, "two years is a long time".

The two foreign ministers have set no date for another meeting. The focus switches to the humbler level of the Geneva strategic arms talks.

Mr Max Kampelman, the chief US arms negotiator, believes the Soviets will table

their proposals tomorrow, but he expects no surprises.

Vienna has been a major setback for the Americans in the struggle for European hearts and minds. As a platform to hammer home the Soviet message that the American obsession with Star Wars is blocking world peace it could hardly have been more effective.

The reality is somewhat different, as American experts struggled to explain yesterday. Far from being the only barrier to agreement, the Strategic Defence Initiative is but one of a range of problems.

Another of these is of far more fundamental importance to NATO. The Russians refuse to concede any automatic verification procedure to ensure compliance with an agreement to withdraw most Soviet and Nato troops from central Europe.

The Soviet idea of verification would be no more than a right to request an inspection after receiving evidence of "cheating".

American and Soviet experts who worked late into the night between the two Shultz-

Shevardnadze meetings made no headway on these differences.

The situation holds the potential for yet another public relations disaster for the West next year. Last June the Warsaw Pact proposed that each side should withdraw half a million troops, and at Vienna Mr Shevardnadze suggested a framework of negotiation and a "test" procedure for verification.

These ideas fall far short of the West's minimum needs. The decision as to how to respond rests on the Nato foreign ministers at a meeting next month.

If they refuse the so-called Budapest Appeal on troop cuts, the West will be open to further charges of obstruction, but to accept on the Soviet terms would be a big gamble.

The Vienna outcome came as no surprise to the British Government, which considers hopes for a world without nuclear weapons unrealistic.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, is openly voicing his doubts that the Soviet Union wants such a world. Cynics within the US

Administration take this line of thought further. Some interpret the Vienna meeting as confirmation of their worst fears — that the entire Reykjavik-Vienna process was nothing more than a Kremlin propaganda exercise.

"My opinion is that they would try to lay the foundations for a PR campaign to denigrate the US," a senior Administration hawk said yesterday.

The Soviet public relations triumph at Reykjavik and Vienna has been so total that it is the Americans who have the explaining to do. Mr Shultz and Mr Shevardnadze have that vital political quality — the ability to radiate personal trustworthiness. But the Soviet Foreign Minister holds the balance of advantage with better speech writers, a warmer manner and a more moderate image.

Vienna was virtually an action replay on Reykjavik, with a crestfallen Mr Shultz reporting failure while Mr Shevardnadze rubbed salt in the wound with his airport departure statement that the talks "had left a bitter taste".

## Flowers but no tears for general

From Roger Boye, Warsaw

Poland's secret policeman, the vintage and the singing, joined soldiers veteran and new, yesterday, to say farewell to General Mieczyslaw Moczar, one of the strongest and most sinister politicians in the country's post-war history.

The unexpected mourner yesterday's funeral service was General Jaruzelski, the Polish leader, who could not be classed as an admirer of the former Interior Minister. General Moczar, during one of several pushes for the leadership, helped to stir up a vicious anti-semitic campaign in 1968 that prompted many hundreds of Polish Jews to leave their jobs or their country.

Professor Henryk Jablonski, former head of the Polish state, now chairman of the War Veterans' Association, reviewed General Moczar's career from pre-war communist, to partisan leader, to secret police chief in Lodz, to Interior Minister and on, by means of a series of sidesteps, into influential obscurity.

"Comrade Moczar" was shaped by history but he also gave it shape," Professor Jablonski said in his speech, which sped, like a skater on thin ice, over the events of 1968.

The pile of wreaths included those from the Communist Party — for, despite his jostling with party leaders Mr Wladyslaw Gomulka, Mr Edward Gierek and Mr Stanislaw Kania, he remained a true believing communist until the end. Another wreath came from Interior Ministry employees — the ministry which oversees the secret and uniformed police and which for so long served as his political base.

General Moczar evolved a kind of nationalistic communism, which both embraced and distanced itself from the Soviet Union — to some that was an attractive philosophy, to others an excuse to indulge in the crudest of chauvinisms.

Those in power drifted away, those out of power stayed, strangely connected to the man in the coffin. They dispersed, shaking off the rain, only when the coffin was loaded into a bus for the last trip to a family grave near Lublin. It was an unsentimental departure befitting an unsentimental politician.

## Soviet military chief may go soon

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

A shake-up at the top level of the Soviet military establishment is believed to be imminent following persistent rumours about the failing health of the Defence Minister, Marshal Sergei Sokolov, who is 75.

The speculation intensified yesterday when the ageing minister conspicuously failed to attend a major Kremlin rally to mark the 69th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution.

According to senior West-

ern military sources, the minister has not been seen in public since last July when he paid an official trip to Finland.

Rumours about his failing health gathered momentum with the publication of an official notice in the armed forces newspaper *Red Star* on Wednesday stating that in a break with tradition he would not be taking the salute at the annual military parade through Red Square.

An order, signed by the Commander of the Moscow Military District, Vladimir

Archipov, said that the parade would be presided over instead by General Pyotr Lushev, the man most widely tipped by both Western and Soviet sources to take over the important defence portfolio.

● Harvest up: A dramatic improvement in the Soviet output of grain was claimed yesterday by Mr Yigor Ligachev, the No 2 figure in the Kremlin hierarchy, who said that the harvest for 1986 was now expected to reach 210 million tonnes. The figure caught most international experts by surprise.

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## Visit by Chirac crowns success of co-operation on Eta raiders

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Jacques Chirac, the French Prime Minister, held his private conversations with Señor Felipe González, the Spanish Prime Minister, during his one-day visit here yesterday. The visit took place at a time when Franco-Spanish collaboration against terrorism has never been better.

The handing over early yesterday to Spain of six Spanish Basques, all alleged ETA members, detained by French police after a raid on a factory just inside the French border on Wednesday, was the biggest since last summer, when France started a policy of summary extraditions.

All the political parties in Madrid praised the French action, seen here yesterday as a serious blow for the Basque terrorist organization's infrastructure.

The haul included not only sophisticated weapons but also internal papers relating to ETA's financial situation and future plans for armed attacks.

Spain's ruling Socialist Party is enjoying a degree of co-operation from the conservative administration.

## Protests in Spain over guerrillas' expulsion

Madrid. — The Spanish Basque country erupted in protest yesterday against France's expulsion of six suspected separatist guerrillas as French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac paid his first official visit to Madrid.

Demonstrators blocked motorways and roads around several Basque towns, set fire

to a French-registered truck and stoned the headquarters of the ruling Socialist party.

Protesters marched through the streets of San Sebastián chanting slogans against the French and Spanish governments. Earlier a bomb blew out the display window of a book shop specializing in Basque-language texts.

to a French-registered truck and stoned the headquarters of the ruling Socialist party. Protesters marched through the streets of San Sebastián chanting slogans against the French and Spanish governments. Earlier a bomb blew out the display window of a book shop specializing in Basque-language texts.

France is currently Spain's best customer but only third supplier of goods and services, and that position has been slipping since Spain joined the EEC last January.

Besides reviewing with Señor González further collaboration on terrorism, Mr Chirac also sought to persuade Spain to increase its defence purchases and to collaborate more closely with the French communications industry.



## Chile students riot

Fellow students aiding one of the five high school pupils hurt during clashes with police in Santiago yesterday. More than 100 students were arrested when police stopped a group which had seized control of a high school asking for democratic freedoms in the educational system. At a seminar on national security on Wednesday, Airforce Colonel Carlos Castro, commenting on the results in the elections for national student leaders, won by the centre-left, said: "The universities are falling into the hands of the marxists."

## Lima's reformist mayor ends myth of bungling left

From Michael Smith, Lima

Mayor Alfonso Barrantes's three-year term in office, which comes to a close with the municipal elections in Peru on Sunday, has done much to change the face of the city and the workings of Peruvian politics.

As the first freely-elected Marxist mayor of a Latin American capital, he and his United Left coalition have moved into political respectability, which would theoretically include a shot at national power.

The Barrantes mayoralty has shattered the myth of the left's incompetence in administrative power," said Señor Mirko Lauer, a political analyst.

Lima is a sprawling city of nearly six million inhabitants caught in a two-pronged urban pincer. Its inner city suffers from deterioration as commercial interest move out to more attractive, new business districts. But it is also surrounded by shanty towns where nearly half the population clamour for basic services like water and light.

In the past, municipal government has done little but rubber-stamp birth certificates, raise statues in parks and keep street vendors from usurping whole blocks — often unsuccessfully. There have only been five free municipal elections in 150 years of independence so there was little precedent on which to build.

Señor Barrantes inherited a city hall which was unable to meet its monthly payroll. Today the budget is out of the red, topping \$121 million (£85 million). The investment budget has been increased 11-fold from 1984 levels, in part due to an \$83 million World Bank loan for urban infrastructure.

After fighting for 18 months to get municipal finances under control, Señor Barr-

antes undertook a major facelift of downtown Lima, painting historic buildings and plazas in vivid tones, re-routing traffic and buses away from congested streets and remodeling main boulevards. More than 150 miles of roads have been repaired or paved.

In social services, an area where municipal government has rarely ventured, Señor Barrantes also fulfilled his most controversial campaign promise — to set up 8,000 neighbourhood committees to distribute one million breakfast rations a day to children in underprivileged neighbourhoods where he is affectionately called "Uncle Bear".

However, many solutions are out of the reach of the city administration as it funds with state companies, which provide public services like water and electricity and the national Government of President Alan García.

Many critics three years ago were predicting disaster under the Marxists, but balanced budgets and improved management and services have proved doom-sayers wrong, though it may not be sufficient to win re-election on Sunday.

Perhaps the change of greatest political significance has occurred inside the United Left itself. The six-party electoral alliance includes the Peking-style and Moscow-line communist parties plus home-grown brands of Marxists, socialists and independents.

It has been held together by Señor Barrantes's political glue.

Señor Barrantes, once again the underdog as he was in 1984, will have to push hard to swing enough votes from his two opponents to the right. But for the first time in Peru, a Marxist candidate will be running on his record, not on revolutionary manifestos.

## Girl Monday.



## Girl Tuesday.



## Girl Wednesday.



## Girl Thursday.



## Girl Friday.



## Girl Saturday.



## Girl Sunday.



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In this Energy Efficiency Year for instance, we have provided £30,000 to the national charity supported by the

Department of Energy, Neighbourhood Energy Action, which provides insulation for the poor and the elderly.

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And we continue to promote new thinking on energy matters by sponsoring the Royal Society Esso Energy Award.

The Meteorological Office won it this year for a global weather forecasting system that enables aircraft to make best use of prevailing winds — and hence fuel economies.

Although forecasting next year's winner is impossible, one thing is certain. On the energy efficiency front, Esso will continue to make further strides.



Quality at work for Britain.





# India's version of Pakistan's secret quest for a nuclear bomb

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

When Mr Bob Woodward of the *Washington Post* said this week that Pakistan had exploded a high-explosive trigger for a nuclear bomb in September, and the Pakistan Government vehemently denied it had done any such thing, India chose to believe the first.

The Indians say that the detonation of an implosion trigger device is but the latest step in a long march towards nuclear capability by Islamabad, which has been marked by subterfuge and illegality.

## Border card check

The Indian Government plans to issue identity cards to people in "selected areas" on the India-Pakistan border to try to stem infiltrations which have seen dozens shot dead, parliament was told yesterday (AFP reports from New Delhi).

from Pakistan and a complainant attitude from its friends.

This march began, according to the English-language newspaper *The Times of India* in 1973, when Pakistan decided to produce pure plutonium from the spent fuel of its heavy water reactor near Karachi. It sought a reprocessing plant from France, but the controversial deal was squashed by US pressure in 1979.

The other, though more difficult, route towards atom bomb manufacture involves enriching naturally occurring uranium by using either a laser, or a gas centrifuge. According to the latest Indian reports Pakistan has now managed to upgrade uranium 238 (natural uranium) until it has 93.5 per cent uranium 235 molecules—good enough for a bomb.

The process began with the purchase of 100 metric tons of West African uranium "yellowcake" from Libya and the clandestine purchase from West Germany of equipment to purify it and convert it to uranium hexafluoride gas.

Stage two was the setting up of ultracentrifuges to separate physically the molecules of uranium 238 and 235 in the gas. The work revolved round a German-trained Pakistani metallurgist, Dr Abdul Qadir Khan, who had worked in FDO, a Dutch subcontractor of Urenco, the British-German/Dutch uranium consortium.

The Indians believe that from 1974 onwards Dr Abdul Qadir passed on Urenco's enrichment know-how to Pakistan—though it was highly classified information. In 1977 FDO itself conducted an illegal sale of computerized measuring equipment to Pakistan. Other hardware for centrifuges followed from Switzerland and West Germany, though these parts were not on any blacklist. In Britain the export-banned list was updated twice in 1979 to keep up with the Pakistanis' wish list—principally for frequency inverters, which the Pakistanis said they wanted to control the high-speed spinning of textile centrifuges.

By 1984, *The Times of India* points out, the purchasing emphasis had shifted from centrifuge parts to components of the weapons themselves. According to India's Foreign Service officials, there will actually be no need for Pakistan to go the whole way to test a bomb—which would immediately end the supply of the US weaponry that enables General Zia to keep the Russians at bay.

# Sind leader puts blame on foreigners for riots

From A Correspondent, Karachi

The Chief Minister of Sind, Syed Ghous Ali Shah, yesterday spoke of a "foreign hand" behind the ethnic riots in the troubled province in which 55 people had been killed so far.

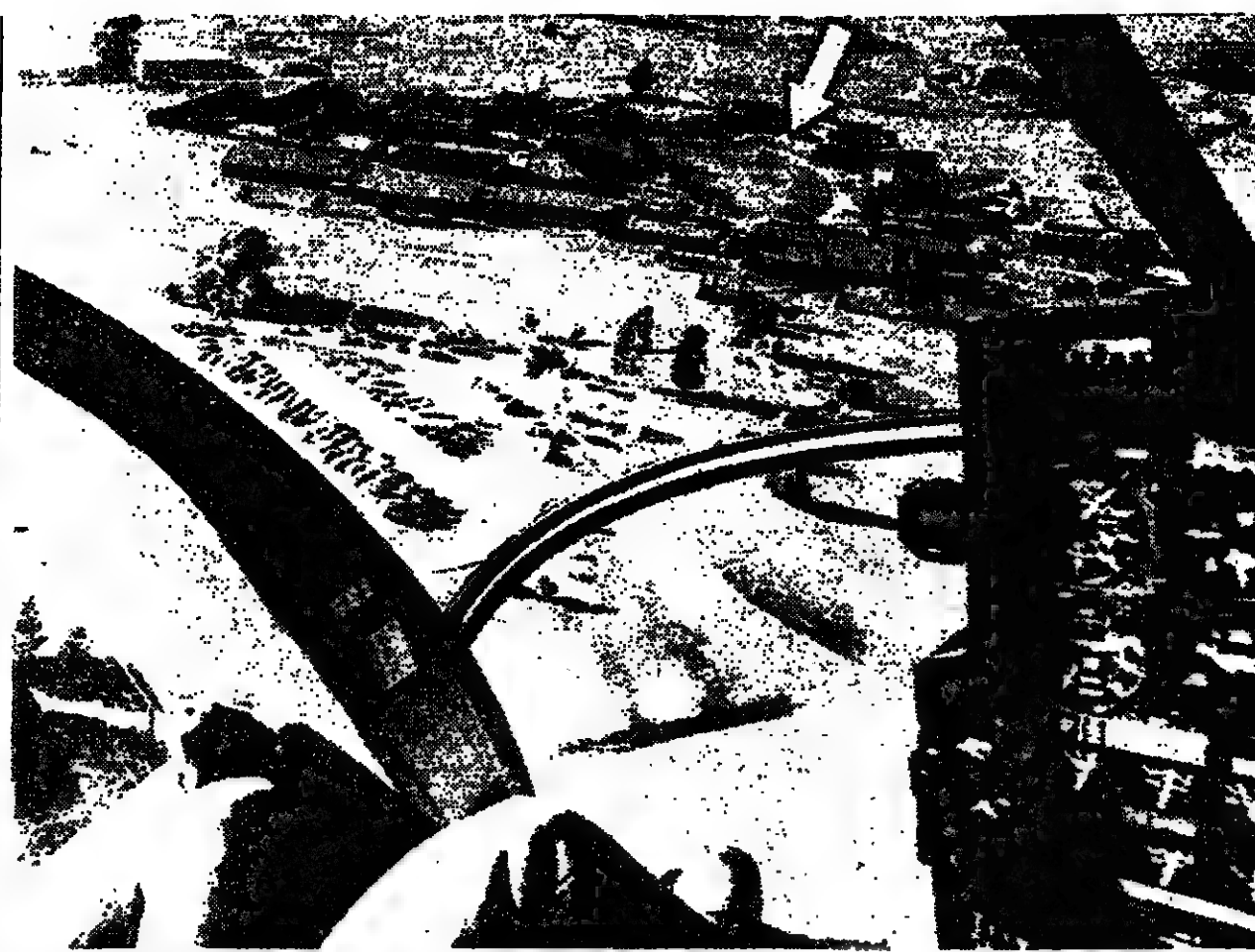
Speaking to a select gathering in Hyderabad, he claimed that an international conspiracy was behind the riots intended to destabilize the Pakistani Government. However, he did not name the country allegedly involved.

Except for sporadic incidents, the situation in Karachi remained calm yesterday. In many districts the curfew was relaxed. However, there was no public transport

in most parts of the city. Food supplies too were disrupted. Commenting on the riots, Miss Benazir Bhutto, the opposition leader, accused the Government of putting the Army against the people and of creating a situation in which innocent civilians and soldiers were being killed.

The Government's policy had created a feeling of deprivation and alienation among the people, she asserted. The situation might explode any time, igniting the whole country, she added.

But President Zia has defended the deployment of troops in the Sind.



The yard, arrowed, from where Ronald McIntosh freed Samantha Lopez. Below, the couple in a prison picture.



# Helicopter hijacker frees woman prisoner

Los Angeles (AP) — A woman inmate is still at large after a helicopter, hijacked by a gunman believed to be an escaped swindler, plucked her to freedom from a prison exercise yard on Wednesday.

Officials at the Federal Correctional Institution in Pleasanton believed the hijacker was Ronald McIntosh, considered a model prisoner before his escape 10 days ago. McIntosh and the woman, convicted bank robber Samantha Dorinda Lopez, had been friendly and worked together in the prison's business office, said a warden. The helicopter was in the exercise yard for only 10 seconds.

McIntosh, aged 42, is a twice-convicted swindler who is regarded as a key figure in a San Francisco-based scheme that bilked investors out of an estimated \$18 million (\$12.67 million).

Lopez, 37, was serving a 50-year sentence for aiding and abetting a bank robbery in Georgia.

## World Television Festival

# Black mark and an honour for BBC

From David Watts, Tokyo

A BBC television drama which Japanese Customs officials insisted be retouched before it could be shown was honoured at a Japanese television festival on Tuesday.

American and Brazilian films took the two top prizes at the World Television Festival and *Insurance Man*, the Franz Kafka film, and another BBC production, *The Haunted Heroes*, received special awards.

The price the BBC had to pay for its Kafka award was to put a black mark over a woman's pubic hairs in three scenes containing nudity. None of the participants went away empty-handed as each received awards to commemorate their appearance at the festival.

But the BBC's decision to accede to the Customs' ruling, rather than the integrity of the production, has tended to reinforce the double standards

applying in such matters in Japan and the authorities' inability to distinguish between art and pornography, particularly where Western productions are concerned.

*Asahi Shimbun*, the mass-circulation newspaper, lampooned the Customs officials with a cartoon that depicted them as "stone-headed". Another British film production, of George Orwell's 1984, almost didn't make it to the international film festival last year because of the nudity it contained.

The prurient interest created by the advance publicity was quickly apparent when many members of the audience produced cameras to shoot their own versions of the explicit scenes.

Ever since Japan abandoned its uncomplicated attitudes to sex in favour of importing the West's prudishness, along with its technology,

# UN chief stays out of Falklands row

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

Senior Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the United Nations Secretary-General, has said he understands the British decision to impose a fisheries protection zone around the Falkland Islands contrary to Argentine reports, according to Mr Timothy Eggar, the Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign Office.

Reports from Buenos Aires said that in a telephone conversation last week Señor Pérez de Cuellar told President Alfonsín that he considered the British proclamation a provocation against the Argentines.

President Alfonsín is said to have urged the Secretary-General to try to persuade the British Government to enter negotiations on the sovereignty of the islands.

But following a meeting with Señor Pérez de Cuellar, Mr Eggar quashed suggestions that the Secretary-General sided with Argentina in the latest turn in the Falklands dispute, saying that the UN leader "was understanding of our point of view".

Since his failure to secure a negotiated settlement between the two sides when the Falklands war broke out in 1982, Señor Pérez de Cuellar has refused to put pressure on the British Government into negotiations with Argentina on the question of sovereignty.

However, he is technically mandated by the General Assembly to pursue the matter.

His contribution has consisted of an annual exchange of letters with the two governments informing them of his mandate followed by a report to the Assembly containing

the predictable responses from each side.

It is not clear whether the fisheries exclusion zone will have an impact on the debate in the Assembly late this month.

Although Argentina has promised to pursue all the diplomatic channels as its disposal to chasten the British Government, it does not want to risk losing support for its campaign.

It has been honed down over the years to secure the maximum number of votes on a resolution enjoining Britain to negotiate all aspects of the Falklands dispute.

MADRID: Spain will not be instructing its fishing fleet to seek licences from Britain when the 150-mile zone around the Falklands comes into force next February, Señor Felipe González, the Prime Minister, told Latin American journalists (Richard Wigg writes).

Reiterating the position already taken by the Madrid Foreign Ministry when the decision was first announced, Señor González emphasized how Spain could not recognise any other sovereignty than Argentina's over the islands.

The British Government's decision was incompatible with international law, maintained Señor González, speaking only a few days before leaving for a visit to Cuba, Peru and Ecuador.

He refused, however, to accept a South American journalist describing the decision as "piracy". Spain is the most important EEC country fishing in South Atlantic waters.

# Manila ceasefire talks end in deadlock

From Keith Dalton, Philippines

Government and rebel negotiators, after lengthy secret negotiations late Wednesday, failed to reach agreement on a ceasefire in the 17-year communist revolt. Outstanding differences are expected to delay a possible peace agreement by at least a month.

The first serious attempt to halt the insurgency ended with both sides agreeing to meet again "in a few days". When the talks reconvene, neither side will leave the negotiating table until a ceasefire is finalized, according to the Government's chief negotiator, Mr Ramon Mitra.

The Government rejected the rebels' offer of a 100-day ceasefire beginning December 10 as too long, possibly on the recommendation of military officials who believe the rebels could use this time to consolidate their forces.

Mr Mitra reiterated the Government's 30-day truce offer, although this was rejected in September because the rebels said it was too short to implement and thoroughly monitor the ceasefire accord.

Mr Mitra confirmed that the Government had called on the rebels to advance the ceasefire period to November 27.

If progress is achieved in the first 30 days then the truce could be extended another 30 days.



Mr Ramon Mitra: seeking peace with rebels

# ENTERTAINMENTS

<p><b>CONCERTS</b></p> <p><b>BABYFACE</b> 8.30-9.30 PM. 1986. 1987. 1988. 1989. 1990. 1991. 1992. 1993. 1994. 1995. 1996. 1997. 1998. 1999. 2000. 2001. 2002. 2003. 2004. 2005. 2006. 2007. 2008. 2009. 2010. 2011. 2012. 2013. 2014. 2015. 2016. 2017. 2018. 2019. 2020. 2021. 2022. 2023. 2024. 2025. 2026. 2027. 2028. 2029. 2030. 2031. 2032. 2033. 2034. 2035. 2036. 2037. 2038. 2039. 2040. 2041. 2042. 2043. 2044. 2045. 2046. 2047. 2048. 2049. 2050. 2051. 2052. 2053. 2054. 2055. 2056. 2057. 2058. 2059. 2060. 2061. 2062. 2063. 2064. 2065. 2066. 2067. 2068. 2069. 2070. 2071. 2072. 2073. 2074. 2075. 2076. 2077. 2078. 2079. 2080. 2081. 2082. 2083. 2084. 2085. 2086. 2087. 2088. 2089. 2090. 2091. 2092. 2093. 2094. 2095. 2096. 2097. 2098. 2099. 2100. 2101. 2102. 2103. 2104. 2105. 2106. 2107. 2108. 2109. 2110. 2111. 2112. 2113. 2114. 2115. 2116. 2117. 2118. 2119. 2120. 2121. 2122. 2123. 2124. 2125. 2126. 2127. 2128. 2129. 2130. 2131. 2132. 2133. 2134. 2135. 2136. 2137. 2138. 2139. 2140. 2141. 2142. 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## THE ARTS

## Natural suffering

The producer Alan Stewart was killed by a land-mine while filming *Where Hunger is a Weapon for This Week* (ITV) in Southern Sudan. His death points out the dangers facing everyone, including relief workers who try to distribute food to civilians displaced by the three-year war between Christian southerners and the Muslim-dominated northern government. Most of the time no food is given out anyway, because both government and rebel leaders insist on controlling distribution. The relief agencies cannot agree to this. The rebel troops, who are fed by a "grateful populace", took fit. Only the civilians suffer in this war, said the reporter Peter Gill. "That is natural", blandly agreed a rebel officer.

## TELEVISION

Dennis Potter's *Blue Remembered Hills* (BBC2), which won the Bafta award for best single play in 1979, was aired last night as part of the BBC's nostalgiafest. Its subject was also appropriately nostalgic: a group of West Country children, it will be remembered, pass a day in dappled forest and small meadows during the Second World War.

That the production should have been awarded and awarded is not surprising. Potter's unerring sense of place and time, the lyrical photography and the extent to which the adult cast overcome the difficulties of playing children add up to a drama of lasting quality. What does astonish, looking back, is the critics' rosy view of *Blue Remembered Hills* simply as a warmly affectionate remembrance of childhood.

Consider the plot. It culminates in the burning to death of Donald Duck, the village cissy, in a barn. He had been shut in by the other children for a joke and it was their third attack on him that day. In the forest, the group's biggest bully held down the sunlit and spat in their faces, and all joined gleefully in stamping to death a squirrel. Anyone who grew up in the country must have recognized these children, but possibly with remembered revulsion and not affection.

Anne Campbell Dixon

## Fellini's integrity in nostalgic farce

## CINEMA

**Ginger and Fred (15)**  
Gate Notting Hill,  
Cannon Tottenham  
Court Road

**Shoah (PG)**  
Curzon

**Ruthless People (18)**  
Odeon Leicester Square

Federico Fellini's Roman trilogy, which began 26 years ago with *La dolce vita* and had *Roma* (1972) as its centre-piece, is completed by *Ginger and Fred*. In each film the principal male character - played in the first and third by Marcello Mastroianni - is an undisputed Fellini self-portrait.

The 40-year-old hero of *La dolce vita* was repelled yet fascinated by the city's glitzy decadence at the end of the Fifties. *Roma* was a mixture of nostalgic memories and middle-aged disapproval of present change. *Ginger and Fred* proclaims the frank, unmitigated revulsion of a 66-year-old man at the spectacle around him today. Not the least attraction of the film is that Fellini dares to act his age like this, while most other elderly film-makers are obliged to pretend they are teenagers like their patrons.

The film relates the events of 24 hours. Long ago, Ginger (Giulietta Masina, Fellini's wife) and Fred (Mastroianni) toured the variety circuit with a double act in which they impersonated the rather more famous American dance team. Now for one night they are to be reunited, for an appearance on a television personality show. The Rome to which they return is a bleak and hostile place. Between the blind high-rises are urban wastelands where vagrants and junkies languish among forgotten and decaying plastic sacks of garbage. The only signs of life are the ubiquitous video screens, grinning out lewd commercials for instant food.

Even this is only limbo to the inferno of the television station, manned by bored, cold, inhuman young devils. An MC with a sequinned jacket and mechanical smile whips on the studio audience to applaud a frantic freak-show: dancing midgets, a levitating monk, mediums, gangsters, admirals, nonagenarians, transvestites, Kojak



Just a shade artistic: Marcello Mastroianni and Giulietta Masina in *Ginger and Fred*

and Queen Elizabeth lookalikes and a miracle woman who went without television for three whole months. In the midst of this, Ginger and Fred seem the last relics of humanity, even if she has weathered into a bourgeois granny and he is fat, breathless, boozy and outrageous. Their long-forgotten old flame flickers momentarily for a last time before they part from each other and the infernal city.

It is a melancholy farce. As extravagant as ever, Fellini's circus has a new quality of nightmare. What relieves it are the marvellous central performances. This is the finest in Mastroianni's gallery of frayed souls - a sick and slightly mad old man, concealing bitterness under manic gaiety and affronting everyone with blue jokes and gratuitous insults. Masina's Ginger, with her blonde wig and unalterable good nature, is a game old girl. Their dance routine, when it comes, is unexpectedly touching. Though Fred may take a tumble and both are a shade pathetic, it evokes all Fellini's regret for a time when there seemed to be more grace.

An incidental pleasure is a valditory glimpse of the serene Jacques Henri Lartigue, whose phenomenal career as one of the world's greatest and most kindly photographers spanned a phoen-

ical 75 years, in the role of the levitating monk.

The nine and a half hours of Claude Lanzmann's *Shoah* (the Curzon) are showing it in two separate parts) afford an experience that is less like watching a film than travelling a long journey through a sombre vision of the Holocaust using none of the over-familiar archive pictures, nor troubles to trace yet again the historical sources and causes of Nazism. Rather he wants to re-create the present-day reality of the phenomenon and the pain, through the few witnesses, animate and inanimate, that survive. To this day the ovens stand in Auschwitz-Birkenau, and the pain too will remain as long as there are people who experienced it.

They reconstruct, fragment by fragment, the whole history of the Final Solution and the mechanisms of the extermination camps. We learn precisely how the trains arrived, how they were unloaded and how efficiently the Jews, arriving in their tens of thousands, were processed, counted, herded, robbed, stripped, beaten, gassed and cremated, all within the hour at peak times.

Lanzmann goes over it again and

again. The most mundane details are sometimes the most shocking. Every fare, it seems, was meticulously calculated and paid in advance - with the one-way journey free for children under four. The old Nazi who organized the transports proudly appears before Lanzmann's camera to boast of his faultless scheduling. Because there was no official budget for the Final Solution, it was the work of diligent civil servants such as this to produce finance from the Jews' own sequestered funds.

The survivors are few and their stories are terrible: a man on an exhumation detail (the Germans had changed their minds and decided to disinter and cremate 40,000 bodies already buried) chanced suddenly on the corpses of his family; a barber employed to cut the hair of women in the very gas chamber found himself performing this last humiliating rite upon his wife and sister. Lanzmann cuts from the faces to insist, monotonous images of the same places today - Auschwitz and the railway at Treblinka still intact, the others marked by stones or overgrown foundations among the fields. Even after forty years the memory is so terrible that the witnesses break down and beg Lanzmann to stop the cameras. He refuses, albeit gently.

He needs to record their pain: "These tears", he says, "are the seal of truth."

With the old Nazis who appear before his camera (generally for cash, and sometimes not knowing the camera was there) he is more ruthless, leading them into terrible self-exposure. "People burn very well", says one, complacently, given a little encouragement. Nor does Lanzmann protect the Poles who lived alongside the camps and contentedly moved into abandoned Jewish homes. "The Jewish women", they trustingly confide, "were beautiful, yes - but that was because they never worked... And then, the Jews were dishonest..."

The accumulation of so much detail brings us closer than ever before to the experience of the Holocaust. It cannot explain, any more than previous films. Every film before, however, has comforted us with the belief that it is inconceivable how such a thing came to pass. The ultimate terror in *Shoah* is that all this mundane, everyday record of the process suddenly makes it conceivable: all that was needed was conscientious and unimaginative civil servants, operatives such as might readily be recruited on the football terraces today, and the stimulus of prejudice, jealousy and hate.

For comic relief this week you could hardly do better than *Ruthless People*, directed by Jim Abrahams and David and Jerry Zucker, and a marked advance upon their previous *Airplane* and *Top Secret*. The film exploits to good effect a comic idea - used at least once, as I recall, by Damon Runyon - about kidnappers who find their victim such a pain in the neck that they would happily pay to have her taken off their hands.

The kidnapped one in this case is Bette Midler, looking a fright as a Bel Air parvenue, and giving her best comic performance to date. The kidnappers prove a godsend to her disgraced husband (Danny DeVito), saving him the trouble of going through with his plan to murder her so that he can move in his well-built mistress. The irony is that the only virtuous people in the entire film are the impecunious, put-upon and inept kidnappers.

Until its complexities get slightly out of hand at the very end, *Cafe* is a script is expertly crafted, and deftly interpreted by the directors and cast, with a feeling both for farce and irony.

David Robinson

© Claude Lanzmann, director of *Shoah*, is interviewed by David Robinson in tomorrow's paper.

role was actually her first time in it.

Jay Jolley was her prince. He is a gentlemanly partner, an actor in the romantic style, and it was good to see in his solos that he has now worked through the difficulties that beset him last season after injuries. Harvey deserved a more gallant set of suitors, however, for the Rose Adagio; of the four, only Mark Silver showed any dignity of comportment, or any sense of occasion.

A misbehaving curtain in the transformation scene saved us for once from the ludicrous effect of trees apparently growing down from heaven instead of up from the earth; that happy accident should be retained as a permanent improvement.

Among the supporting cast I must mention Deborah Bull's high, easy jumps, the vigour of Karen Pansey and the smoothness of Bruce Sansom in the trio of Florestan and his sisters.

I must also make space to mention the new cast I saw in *Symphonic Variations* at a schools' matinee on Tuesday. Deirdre Eyden and Mark Silver showed qualities very like those of Harvey and Jolley as the central couple; the other parts gained from the presence of Broomhead and Sansom, Tucker and Fiona Chadwick, all well suited. Now we have got that ballet right, it deserves further performances soon to work it in properly.

John Percival

## THEATRE

**Too True to be Good**  
Riverside

T.E. Lawrence, complete with motor cycle, and disquisitions on government, postwar sexuality and the wholesale collapse of belief (typically, the chief victim is a former devout atheist).

By all the rules, the result ought to be unstageable incoherent, and yet the play remains spellbinding. Its success derives partly from the quality of each scenic fragment in which we see earlier Shawian arguments distilled to their comic essence. But the main force lies in the gradual detachment of these scenes from the growing sense of underlying melancholy. Shaw is unfeelingly sounding off about man's need for proper work, rational government and all his habitual doctrines.

Meanwhile, the pain of the war is echoing through the text, together with a sense of desolation - which finally

breaks into the open in the chaplain's final speech to an empty stage, confessing that he has to go on preaching, although he has nothing to say. If the play starts as a Victorian throwback, it ends in the spirit of Beckett.

Backed by recordings of "Tip Toe Through the Tulips" and a do-it-yourself cut-out set, Mike Alfred's Shared Experience production sets out to anchor the piece in the 1920s. This has the effect of leaving the more fruitfully 19th-century figures out in the cold, nor has Mr Alfred managed to disguise the fact that Shaw regularly leaves characters hanging about with nothing to say.

It is a stop-go production when it is properly in gear - as in the military exchanges between Sam Deane and Jonathan Newth, or in the runaway girl's scenes with her asphyxiating mother (Selina Cadell and Sheila Reid) - and it has you on the edge of your seat. The company excel in the art of comic reaction, none more than Sam Deane as the lady burglar, blissfully funny when manhandling the lines in cockney-French but even funnier when she has nothing to do but look appalled.

Irving Wardle

## DANCE

**Sleeping Beauty**  
Covent Garden

Aurora in *The Sleeping Beauty* was Cynthia Harvey's fifth role at Covent Garden since her debut with the Royal Ballet four weeks earlier. Those roles have covered the spectrum of the repertoire: from Ashton to MacMillan, from Robbins to Petipa. There can be no doubt about her value to the company (all the more with Lesley Collier absent through injury), and her reception as Aurora made clear that she has won a warm following.

The chief merit of her dancing in this role is a smooth, sustained quality of movement. This shows especially in the crescent, where she phrases the solo about her without any loss of definition in individual movements. She also has a gift for drama, seen in the convincing air of giddiness when she has pricked her finger with the magic spindle.

Because of those attributes, the role of Aurora suits her a lot better than the smaller part in this ballet, the Bluebird's



Natural gift for drama: Cynthia Harvey with Jay Jolley

enchanted princess, which she played last week. Ravenna Tucker took over that assignment this time, and was sharply brilliant. With the blithely bounding Phillip Broomhead as her partner, the duet sparkled as it should. Pearly lyricism rather than diamond glitter seems, on present evidence, to be Harvey's strength. It fits well into the Royal Ballet's approach to this work, and it should suit equally well when she dances the premiere of Anthony Dowell's new *Swan*

Lake production next March. She has a very womanly quality, not at all like a little girl, and that means she has to rely on charm and freshness in her dancing to convince as the heroine still on the threshold of maturity. However that is a problem others have faced and overcome before her. Indeed, Harvey is already so nearly there that I assumed she must have played Aurora in America and find it surprising to learn that so well considered, nicely shaded and balanced an account of the

inely believed was the common good. But deliberately to write for the people is really not to write for them at all, since the people are then denied the insights of an individual.

Still, there were one or two things here which were adequate showcases for that decadent quality of virtuosity, not least the piano duo *Bohème* (1981), given with suitable brilliance by John Tibary and Andrew Ball. And there were also the distinctly Paganini-like "The Worker's Song" (1979) for solo violin (Alexander Balanescu), the rather irritating *Thalman Sonata* (1974) for violin, vibraphone and marimba (Balanescu and Gregory Knowles), "Mountains" (1977) for solo bass clarinet (Ian Mitchell), which was possibly the best of the bunch and, with its unbelievably banal climax, "We Sing for the Future" (1980-81) for solo piano (Andrew Bottrill). Cardew's last completed work.

But of the five examples from *Songs from the People's Struggles*, performed by the PCA's very own rock-cum-jazz group, and the three choral pieces sung by a small, enthusiastic choir, I have little to say, except that I found their propagandist sentiments altogether sinister. Not in the Latin sense either, since extremes of left and right meet in the end at the totalitarian back of the circle.

Stephen Pettitt

## MEMORIAL CONCERT

**Cornelius Cardew**  
Purcell Room

This concert, a tribute to the socialist composer Cornelius Cardew, who died in a road accident five years ago (he would have been 50 this year), was promoted by an organization called the Progressive Cultural Association, which Cardew served as secretary. When it comes to proclaiming principles the PCA certainly do not beat about the bush. In the course of applauding Cardew's new simplistic, populist style of the Seventies, the foreword to the programme book declared "avant-gardism, serialism and 'formalism' in mainstream new music. The use of that last term recalls Stalin's stock criticism of music he either could not understand or did not like. And indeed the monster Stalin himself got a word of praise somewhere along the line.

That Cardew was ensnared by the native vision of Utopia envisaged by the Marxist-Leninists was something which appears to have done his later music little good. The predominant atmosphere was of determined darkness. One could sense the composer willingly throwing away his personality for what he gaus-

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Applications should be accompanied by curriculum vitae and the names of three persons to whom the Board may refer. They should be marked in strict confidence and be sent, to arrive not later than December 15th to the Chairman of the Board:-

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## SPECTRUM

# Batting on, or retiring hurt?

Tomorrow, Somerset members will decide whether the dismissal of two of the club's best players was really cricket. Simon Barnes sums up the situation

If Mars challenged the Earth to a game of cricket today, there would be three Somerset players in the World XI: Ian Botham, magical turner of games; Viv Richards, West Indian batsman-destroyer; and Joel Garner, West Indian fast bowling giant. Not a county in England has a trio to match these.

So how did it happen that Somerset finished bottom in the county championship in 1985 and second last in the season just gone? Logically the thing was impossible.

Then, when the club heard that a young Taunton-educated player was advised to join Leicestershire rather than Somerset because of the club's reputation, it was time to act. Somerset signed a young New Zealander, Martin Crowe, and did not renew the contracts of the long-serving West Indians.

Richards reacted angrily: "When you have two workhorses and you shoot them in the back," he said, "I

**'They have lost their enthusiasm'**

think it's evil. You do not treat animals in this way. The word was out. Bang bang — Viv and Joel are dead.

The move was startling, and many Somerset supporters were — and are — outraged. Botham promptly declared that if his two best mates went, then he went with them. Rebel members have forced the issue to a vote at a special general meeting of all the members, to be held tomorrow at Shepton Mallet. The club is publicly tearing itself in two.

But long before the decision was reached, the Somerset playing staff was already split. There were the stars, and there was the rest: a division that captures the essential nature of cricket as it is now played in England.

"County cricket is a matter of character, discipline and determination, a personal assault course. Cold Tuesdays are the nature of the beast," Peter Roebuck, that marvellous cricket writer who also happens to be captain of Somerset, wrote. "Cricketers do not expect anyone to watch the three-day game. They do, not really want anyone to watch."

But the game the stars play involves vast crowds and intense media attention. To them the county game means little; but to the average county pro, it is life itself. In Somerset, this gulf caused the stars to form a clique, an Inner Ring defined by those it excluded. And at the heart of it was Ian Botham, who by nature loves to be part of a



## 'When Ian and Viv play, cricket is never relaxing'

Stars on Sunday: Ian Botham and Viv Richards remain close friends

racketing clique of friends. The creation of this team within a team — led by three men for whom the county championship meant little — was utterly disruptive of team endeavours in the county championship. The stars acquired a number of unspoken rights. They could leave the field with "muscle twanks" and "cramps" whenever they wished to. It was accepted that their batting would show application only when it suited them. They could pick and choose which games they played: "injuries" never struck for one-day finals at Lord's, only on cold Tuesdays.

In nine seasons up to and including 1985, Garner played 76 first class games for Somerset; during that time others played nearer 200. Garner played almost every game this season; it would be cynical to suggest that this was because it was his benefit season.

A view of this situation depends, of course, on whether you think the three-day game matters. Many people love it, but even these are mostly Platonic lovers, rarely actually going to a game. The county championship matters only to county cricketers and the club's committee men. By contrast, one of the most vocal of the Somerset rebels seeking to overturn the non-

retention of Garner and Richards is Bridget Langdon, who says she has missed only two of Somerset's limited-over Sunday league games in 10 years. "The three-day crowd think that cricket should be sedate and relaxing and gentle," she says. "But cricket is never relaxing when Viv, Ian and Joel play."

Why then, does the trio of stars not work its magic in the three-day game? "Richards and Garner have both played cricket for 10 years almost non-stop," the Somerset chairman, Michael Hill, says. "They have lost some of their enthusiasm for day-to-day county cricket."

It is understandable. There is a lot wrong with the unending slog of the county championship, as there is with county cricket's overseas stars policy. But the county championship exists. Counties are judged and judge themselves on their showing in the competition, and Somerset

believe that Crowe — a young, keen batsman on the verge of stardom — is an attractive proposition. Indeed, many rebel supporters have said: "I agree with the decision, but not with the way it was done."

But there was, in fact, nothing sinister in the way the decision was reached. It was a mixture of chance and bumbling. When Australia's captain Allan Border left Essex shortly before the end of this season, that county had a vacancy for an overseas star. Crowe would have been the right man — but he was still registered with Somerset after playing for them during the 1984 season, while Garner and Richards were with the West Indian team touring England.

Crowe applied for the release of his registration — and the committee suddenly realised that this could be a bad move. The rest followed logically, if slowly, and culminated

in the announcement of the non-renewal of the West Indians' contracts.

"Neither would give any clear indication of what their plans were beyond 1988," said Brian Langford, the cricket committee chairman. In 1988, Richards Garner will probably be with another (Lord help us) West Indian touring party in England. Langford added: "Both do find it hard to gear themselves up for normal county cricket."

The response of the "rebels" has been large and loud. It has reached personalities: Roebuck, known as "The Professor" and seen by some as too clever by three-quarters, has been accused of being the Machiavelli behind the move. This is untrue: Roebuck was neither a prime mover nor, initially, a fellow traveller.

In the meantime, the unsavoury reputation of Somerset continues to spread. Players have left the club and the game, and the club is finding it hard to attract people to replace them. The club is in a mess; that at least is something on which both sides agree. Tomorrow the club will decide which is the more important: Stars on Sunday, or the austere virtues of cold and silent Tuesdays.

# Fighter in the blue corner

Though about to depart the CBI, Sir Terence Beckett is still spoiling for a bare knuckle scrap

When he became director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, Sir Terence Beckett shook his members by telling their annual conference that in order to get their message across to the Government they would have to be prepared for "a bare-knuckle fight". Six turbulent years later, he faces his final conference, which begins in Bournemouth on Sunday, still spoiling for a gloves-off confrontation.

Now, however, his target has broadened to include politicians generally, trade unions, civil servants and even some of the confederation's own members — anyone, in fact, who can be seen to be in the way of the salvation of Britain through improved industrial competitiveness.

Contrary to popular belief, he does not regret his original outburst; neither does he believe it harmed the CBI's relationship with the Government. While CBI members were threatening to resign over his supposed disloyalty to the one political party that represented business interests, Sir Terence was down at No 10 at a pre-arranged meeting discussing interest rates with Mrs Thatcher. Ten days later, he recalls with satisfaction, rates fell.

Despite Mrs Thatcher's dislike of institutions, corporatism and consensus, she appears to have grown fonder of the CBI. Sir Terence believes this is because eight years of pay presentations to member companies has re-

As it gains in moral authority, the CBI and its leaders believe they can turn towards social problems such as unemployment and the north/south divide, issues for which the federation's policies have too often been perceived as bland.

His one lasting disappointment is the "lack of reality" in the business world on the matter of wages. Sir Terence blames the nation's insularity, the "sheer inertia" of 20 years of incomes policies and Government compacts, and the clinging habit of the annual pay round. "We are digging ourselves deeper into the pit," he adds.

Soon to be freed from the constraint of having to appear to be non-political, Sir Terence now says that the reappearance of a Labour government would "put us right back into the mayhem of the 1970s". Eight years ago, before he took the CBI job, he played a part in the downfall of the last Labour administration.

As chairman of the Ford motor company's British division, he was unabashedly opposed to the imposition of sanctions on the company for breaching the "voluntary" 5 per cent pay norm set by James Callaghan's Government. Weeks of hard lobbying and discussions with Mrs Thatcher, then Leader of the Opposition, resulted in the useful Commons debate on sanctions during which the Government was twice defeated.

"It was Christmas, 1978," he remembers. "I had just



Sir Terence: 'business provides the wherewithal'

sailed in annual rises coming down from 15 per cent to 5 per cent; that CBI clout led to the provision of 300,000 youth training scheme places; that his concentration on the regions has allowed grassroots business opinion to surface more readily; and that the CBI's business strategy, carefully constructed over the last three years, has concentrated on self-help and self-reliance — all music to the Prime Minister's ears.

"Our policy is now much more pro-active rather than the reactionary trends of the past," he says. "We should never be on the hustings, and we should and will speak without fear or favour about what is best for business."

It is still insufficient recognition among politicians and others that it is business that provides the country with the wherewithal.

Sir Terence has also tidied up the CBI itself, cutting staff by 15 per cent and turning an inherited deficit into surplus; the CBI now has £3 million of reserves and next year it expects earnings to be boosted by a record £850,000 from organizing conferences at its Centre Point headquarters in London.

come from church, at about 9 pm, and we heard the news on the radio. My wife said: "What have you done? But really, the Government was brought down by the transport union and its own supporters."

A victory for Neil Kinnock next time would, he says, leave the country worse off than it was in 1979. On the industrial front, "Labour is planning to take away all our common law rights."

With an election looming next week's conference could find the CBI again open to the criticism of excessive caution and a lack of spirit.

In his concluding speech on Tuesday (which will be in the nature of a valediction, although he will not give up his chair to the incoming John Bannam, head of the Government's Audit Commission, until the spring), Sir Terence just might find another bare knuckle comment irresistible.

"I could do with another haymaker," he says. "After the last one I filled a lot of halls with people wanting to hear what I might say next."

Edward Townsend

The feature on Aberdeen and the oil industry, planned for today, has been held over

## SATURDAY

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## On the slippery slope

Skiing's social strata are as clearly marked as a black-flagged piste, and tour operators know whether they are catering for the C&A-clad mass downhillers or the designer labels looking for perfect powder. In a four-page ski special, The Times puts an end to silly chalet-ing with an sidelong glance at the winter sports scene

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## The ascent of a third flunkey

They thought he was mad to give up his job for the stage. Two years later, Dave Willetts is a West End star

On a bleak autumn afternoon in Coventry two years ago, Dave Willetts cleared out his desk, handed over the keys of his company car and quit a well-paid job as quality manager of an engineering group.

Two days later, he began a new career in a cold, dingy church hall — rehearsing for a part as "third flunkey from the left" in the chorus of *Annie*, being staged by the local Belgrade Theatre.

At the age of 32, with no acting or singing training, unable to read music, and with a wife and two young children to support on a sharply reduced salary, he recalls that former colleagues considered him "a bit loony".

Now they are hiring coaches to London to watch his latest performance — as Jean Valjean, lead role in the hit musical *Les Misérables*.

The rapid transformation from engineer and part-time singer in amateur shows in the Midlands to West End star astonished Willetts as much as anybody else.

"I'm amazed to be here. I suppose it was a risk, but there comes a time when you ask yourself if a decent salary, an expense account and a company car are what you want out of life. The answer in my case was not really."

His rags-to-riches story began with a favourable review in a local newspaper. Willetts said: "The critic said some nice things about me in a fringe theatre production of *Flowers for Algernon*, and the next thing, I was offered a part in *Annie*. It was very tempting, and my wife Lyn encouraged me to go for it, so I did."

A year later, he was preparing for another Belgrade

production, *South Pacific*, when he learned that auditions were taking place in London for *Les Misérables*, directed by Trevor Nunn and John Caird.

"I turned up to find about 250 guys trying for the last remaining part in the ensemble. I was a bit surprised to be recalled the next day, when the hopefuls had been reduced to half a dozen."

"Then Trevor asked me to sing something from the show, and I had to admit I couldn't read a note of music. But he said that was okay, and somebody came over and plunked it out on the piano. I think it was to see if I could reach the top scale of the piece."

"I got quite used to substituting for Colin, but obviously it's different now. No matter how good you are, as far as the audience is concerned, an understudy can never be as good as the star. Now I feel the part is really mine."

Fame and fortune are unlikely to disrupt the Willetts family — Dave still commutes from his home in a West Midlands village to his eight weekly performances. "Although this is a great way to earn your living," he says, "you have to stand back sometimes and realize it's not the real world."

Gavin Bell



Happy being *Misérables*: Willetts savours his success

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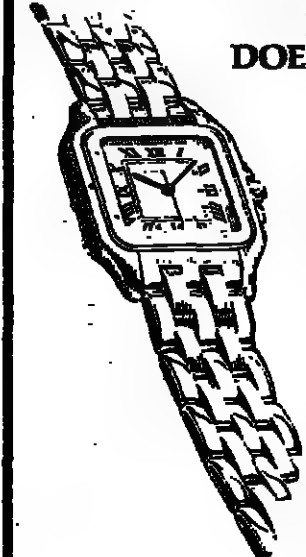
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- 5 Go back on word (6)
- 8 Soil tiller (3)
- 9 Intertwine ropes (6)
- 10 Against (6)
- 11 Annoyed exclamation (4)
- 12 Denmark/Sweden strait (8)
- 14 Speak freely (4,2)
- 17 Cheery and nasty (6)
- 19 Concise (8)
- 22 Route (4)
- 24 Price schedule (6)
- 25 Gods' drink (6)
- 26 Influenza (3)
- 27 Bell tower (6)
- 28 Come to rest (6)

### DOWN

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- 3 Integral (5,2)
- 4 Medical (5-2)
- 6 Embed stones in wall (9)
- 6 Scandinavian (5)

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# Tricky to place, easy to please

A handicapped child can be just as loving as any other, yet adoption agencies find it hard to find homes for them. A new video scheme will give prospective parents an idea of what such children are like. Peta Levi reports

Once 14-year-old Robert's shyness slips away, he has a lovely smile. He is affectionate, has a sense of humour and enjoys playing cricket and football and listening to music and stories. Robert has been in care since the age of six; he is mentally handicapped, but can feed and dress himself and an intensive toilet training programme is progressing well, even though it sometimes provokes his temper.

He will amuse himself for hours with his cars and jigsaw puzzles, both of which he marshals into orderly lines, showing organizational ability. He is helpful, clearing plates and fetching water and glasses without being asked.

Although he is living happily in a small, well-run "family-group" home for mentally handicapped children in Yorkshire, he is a child who would undoubtedly benefit from the stimulation of a loving family. It is not hard to imagine his clarity of speech, his co-ordination (he has recently taken to drawing with pens), general skills and self-confidence developing enormously in such a secure environment.

The problem is finding him such a family. In the hope of helping children like Robert, British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering (BAAF) this week launch a new scheme, Adoption by Video. BAAF is a professional association offering a range of services to all who work in child care. Apart from 1,500 individual members, its corporate

members include all UK voluntary adoption agencies and all local authorities but one (Staffordshire). Adoption by Video is believed to be a unique scheme for arousing interest in parenting children with handicaps. Bridget Warr, one of BAAF's assistant directors, says: "The idea is to make 20-minute videos of children with special needs seeking parents (such as Robert) was a natural development from our highly successful book, *Be My Parent*. The book has proved very effective in bringing a child's particular needs to life. We have started the new scheme by making videos of 20 children to see if by giving more information on a child it will attract more parents."

Through BAAF's Exchange Service, which links adoption agencies throughout the UK, it has found families for 2,000 children. Since the launch in 1980 of *Be My Parent*, a loose-leaf book with photos and information about children with special needs, 334 children, representing some of the most handicapped, have found families. Only a few have not settled with their families, usually because of the severity of their handicap, or be-

cause in the case of older children, they have never known family life. There were about 78,000 children in care in England and Wales in 1983 and more than half had been in care for more than three years. BAAF's policy, borne out by experience, is that the best place for any child to be brought up is in a family. The handicapped children who have been adopted through *Be My Parent* appear to do well. For example, Bob was severely physically handicapped, could not walk or talk and rarely smiled, yet a minor and his wife, with grown-up children, "look a shine" to him and adopted him. BAAF received a Christmas card showing Bob standing at the gate with an enormous grin, only equal to that of his adoptive parents, justifiably delighted with their "son's" progress. Many of the children placed by BAAF are mentally and physically



Waiting: Robert, 14, one of the mentally handicapped children featured on video, enjoys listening to music. He has been in care since he was six years old.

handicapped and some have behavioural problems. Warr says: "Ten years ago it would have been almost impossible to place a Down's child, but now this handicap is much better understood and they are among the easiest to place." What problems face a family adopting a child with special needs? One social worker says: "One of the biggest initial problems is coping with the stigma of becoming a handicapped family, a problem that siblings can find particularly difficult. I question why prospective parents are wanting to adopt a handicapped child, to make sure they have a realistic, not a sentimental or romantic, approach. You also need sensitivity, patience, stamina and a sense of humour." The backgrounds of adoptive parents vary widely, but their characters tend to be of a type - they have a need or desire to look af-

ter another human being, a forceful personality prepared to fight for the child's rights, and frequently they have experience of coping with a handicapped person.

One such family is Pauline and Greig Stewart and their seven-year-old daughter, Anne-Morag. Pauline has had five miscarriages, and gave birth to a severely handicapped daughter who died at the age of four weeks. She spent seven months in hospital when pregnant with Anne-Morag. Pauline and Greig said: "We felt there was a space to be filled and we had an awful lot of love to give."

At first they had wanted to adopt a physically handicapped child, but after the birth of their own mentally handicapped daughter, they felt they could not only cope, but that it would be a challenge to care for a child with a mental handicap. It took them two and a half years and 30 letters to adoption agencies before they found six-month-old

'Our aim is to make him independent by the age of, say, 20'

Adam, with Down's Syndrome, through the *Be My Parent* book.

Adam is now two. On returning from nursery school he dashed round the room giving everyone a wet kiss. He feeds himself, says "hello" and "ta", knows his colours and counts up to five. Pauline's fighting spirit has expressed itself in her demanding a place for Adam at the local nursery school. When Adam was not considered sufficiently handicapped for physiotherapy from the stretched local services, Pauline went on a course to learn portage (exercises devised for children with mental handicaps), which she regularly does with Adam. She also trained in makaton, a sign language where you say the word at the same time as making a sign, so that the child communicates by signs before actually speaking the word, then masters the word and drops the sign.

"Our aim is to help Adam to become independent," Pauline says, "so that at the age of, say, 20 he can move away from home and lead an independent life." They are already inquiring about hostels and adult training, and have made provision for Adam in their wills.

*Be My Parent* books, located in 400 homes or offices throughout the country, can be seen by applying to BAAF, 112 Old Bailey, London EC4A 3DF. A video can then be sent to interested parents.

## MEDICAL BRIEFING

### Crack troops

Doctors used to treating stress fractures will not be surprised to learn that David Colvin, Councillor at the British Embassy in Budapest, is hobbling around because his leg spontaneously broke while he was playing squash.

A recent leading article in *The Lancet* showed that 2 per cent of male recruits to the US Army developed a stress fracture during training. Soldiers in the Israeli Army, who apparently undergo much more rigorous training, had a

31 per cent incidence of one stress fracture or another.

Although spontaneous fractures occasioned by extremes of exercise usually occur in the lower limbs, they can affect any bones. The bones which are most apt to break are the tibia (the larger bone in the lower leg) which cracks just below the knee, and the metatarsal bones of the foot.

Once someone has suffered a stress fracture, he or she is more likely to sustain others and to have osteoporosis (rarefaction of the bones) in later life. These patients should take plenty of calcium, not too much alcohol - and a liberal amount of good, steady exercise.

### Chopstick trap for unwary



Although the Queen's skill with chopsticks was obviously pleasing to her Chinese hosts, a letter in *The Lancet* from Drs M.F. Mysor and J. Rees draws our attention to the dangers of chopsticks. In order to avoid embarrassing other guests by eating slowly, inexperienced users can be tempted to swallow over-large pieces of meat. Food cut and served in the western way will not normally stick in the oesophagus (gullet). If it does, or even if it seems to, it is an indication of the need for immediate investigation.

When chopsticks are ineptly handled, or meat has been badly cut up, swallowing can be difficult, even with a normal oesophagus. The Newcastle doctors describe two recent cases in which gastroscopy was needed to clear away a Chinese dinner which had become impacted. The first was of a 38-year-old man who was hurrying through his meal when he developed a sudden chest pain and could swallow neither food nor drink. The next day, in hospital, a large piece of liver was found to be causing a complete oesophageal obstruction. After its removal he made an uneventful recovery. The other patient was a 34-year-old housewife, whose dinner was ended by a bit of sliced beef. Even the Chinese have their problems: the largest study of obstruction of an otherwise healthy oesophagus has been conducted in Hong Kong.

### Smiles that reveal all



Forty years ago, when the manufacture of cosmetics was less sophisticated than it is today, it was common to see women's front teeth smeared with lipstick. Since it began to be made with a hydrophobic base, teeth are now left sparkling clean, provided there is adequate saliva.

Dr G.J. Ruiz-Arquelles has written to the *New England Journal of Medicine* suggesting that the sight is so rare these days that when it is seen it has a clinical significance. Having excluded other causes of dry mouth such as anti-depressants, some tranquilizers, or dehydration in poorly controlled diabetes, he says that a diagnosis of Sjogren's syndrome should be considered. Although little known to the general public, the syndrome is surprisingly common: surveys show that about one in 2,000 of the population are affected. It usually attacks the older age group, and women more often than men. Sjogren's is an autoimmune disease in which there is destruction of the tear and salivary glands, so that eyes and mouth are very dry and vulnerable to secondary infection. The syndrome is often associated with rheumatic diseases.

### Hormone link with cancer

Today's body builder supplements his regime with anabolic steroids, hormones of one type or another designed to increase body mass and muscle power.

Likewise the insecure middle-aged man anxious about his failing sexual prowess takes testosterone or its more sophisticated equivalents.

Dr J.T. Roberts, of Newcastle General Hospital, and Mr D.S. Essenhigh, of the Department of Urology of the Freeman Hospital, New-

castle upon Tyne, have written to *The Lancet* suggesting that as testosterone supplements have been shown to increase the chances of developing cancer of the prostate, there may also be a relationship between the use of the anabolic steroids and testosterone substitutes and this malignancy. The disease is uncommon in men under the age of 55, so they illustrate their point by quoting the case of a 38-year-old body builder who already had an advanced growth when first seen. He had been taking hormones for 20 years.

Dr Thomas Stuttford

## A breath of fresh air for the British perfume market

The notion of British fragrance used to conjure up a hazy image of lavender water, scented drawer liners and the lingering aroma of visiting great-aunts' moth-balls. Our once-flourishing Mayfair perfume industry has lagged sadly behind in the highly commercialized race to clutter smart dressing tables with fragrances, almost always French, whose designer links lend them an allure sometimes quite out of proportion with the perfumes themselves. Ironically, that bastion of bespoke masculinity, Jermyn Street, was the setting for the launch this week of a new up-market British women's perfume - the brainchild of a dynamic young duo whose appearance on the scent scene

is like a breath of fresh air. Amariyllis is the creation of Martin Williams and Philip Montague-Peters, who protests that too many scents on sale today "are not lovely, adorable smells - but cleverly marketed odours which could strip paint at 15 paces". The impeccably tailored partnership was forged when Martin was asked by his father, the managing director of gentleman's outfitters Turnbull and Asser, to find a new cologne which could be sold alongside the silk ties and striped shirts. Martin, who has had a life-long passion for packaging, spotted a particularly beautiful perfume bottle and asked to be put in touch with the scent's creator. Philip Montague-Peters, at



Noise for a trend: Montague-Peters (left) and Williams

36, is Britain's finest "nose" - a rare trait, enabling him almost magically to identify different scents and so conjure up alluring combinations. "It was a slightly strange career choice; I'd always thought that

pick out the best quality. I happened to choose the right snuff," he says modestly.

Montague-Peters's nose and Williams's marketing skills have come together to form a partnership called Alpha Blue whose express intention is to change the frumpy identity of British perfume. After the cologne for Turnbull and Asser came several commissions - including a request to produce "a salty dog smell for Captain O. M. Watts, the oldest ships' chandler in Europe" - but Montague-Peters had long cherished the dream of launching Amariyllis, a perfume "whose emphasis is on quality rather than mass marketing". It is a subtle, feminine fragrance blending rose, jasmine, orange flower,

hyacinth, oak moss, bergamot and lavender oil which perfectly fits their brief: "perfume should enhance a woman, not be something you can smell before she turns the corner".

They are both intensely proud of the Britishness of their product, of which Harrods buyers "took one whiff and they were sold". In keeping with one Jermyn Street tradition, at least, it sells for 20 guineas (£21) for 15ml. "Launching Amariyllis is a bit like having a baby," says Philip, who is father to two of his own. "Only this smells better," adds Martin.

Josephine Fairley  
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## ELEGANT DINING AT

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# HEAL'S

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## FIRST PERSON

### Nightie nightmare

One of my weaknesses is the inability to avoid sending for clothes from mail order catalogues. The models in them look so attractive and smart, and yet one might just meet them in the supermarket - so unlike the glossy magazine models, who clearly never eat, or even sit down at all.

So when my eye fell on the picture of the lawn nightdress, Victorian style, with lace trimmings, at £17.50, I did not hesitate. Off went the order (on my credit card) and in no time a very large cardboard container was waiting on the doorstep. "A free gift with your first order?" Of course. From the layers of plastic bubbles emerged: a lemon squeezer, a pair of spaghetti servers, a "refrigeration set", two tartan picnic rugs and, nestling coyly at the bottom, a nightdress. Victorian style. What a delicious picture it all conjured up - self and spouse seated in the garden on our individual tartan rugs, daintily serving one another spaghetti *froid au citron*.

The picture was short-lived however; there was an advice note for £36.60. Out came the Sellotape and off I went to the post office to send back the package by recorded delivery (essential when dealing with mail-order firms). On the way home I remembered the credit card company's rule - positively no cancellations - and made a telephone call. With computer speed I was reassured: my account had been debited by £22.50.

A letter to the firm asking the reason for the extra £5 received no reply, nor did a second, a fortnight later. Directory Enquiries had no entry under that name. A call to the credit card company

produced an address in the Midlands but no number, and once again Directory Enquiries had nothing. I telephoned the nearest Chamber of Commerce.

"Oh yes," they said, "we have had a lot of queries about that firm." They gave me the number. I dialled it. A faint voice assured me "everything would be sorted out". And in due (actually overdue) course a letter arrived, expressing regret that I had received goods not ordered and offering to pay the return postage. The writer, from the Customer Liaison Service, enclosed an s.a.e. By the same post came another letter telling me the writer was unable to trace any payment for six items.

Two weeks after replying to both I got a cheque for the return postage and a letter from the credit card manager to say the £5 represented postage and "off-shore handling". As I live in the Channel Islands the goods had undoubtedly been handled: honour was satisfied.

Ten days later came a letter from someone else in the Customer Liaison Service informing me that their stock of lawn nightdresses was now exhausted and as this item would not be repeated, I would be credited with £22.50. At the same time came a letter from the credit card company... "arrangements will be made to redebit this sum to your account and the adjustment..."

New catalogues are falling through the letter box like autumn leaves at the moment. Now what about the "duvet, with cover in exotic or country flower print?"

Ann Carr

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## THE TIMES DIARY

### The Iranian Eiranians

Robert McFarlane's alleged use of a false Irish passport on his "peace" mission to Tehran carries a strong echo of a previous US penetration of Iran. The abortive operation to rescue the American hostages during the Carter presidency in 1979 was headed by Richard Meadows, a Green Beret veteran who for some months previously posed as an Irish civilian living in Tehran. He managed to retain his cover and get out of the country. I can only conclude that there must be an abundance of Irish passports in the CIA special printing section.

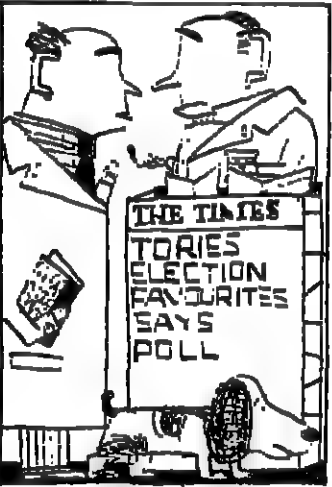
### Wasted effort

David Steel received a shock the other day when he went to Liverpool to film his part for this week's SDP party political broadcast. Last year he was filmed for a Channel 4 programme on a derelict site in Knowsley, saying proudly that the Liberal-run Liverpool council was going to transform the area by building houses there. What a good idea it would be, he decided, to go back to that very spot and show the public the Liberal achievement which, he thought, would be ready by next week. Alas, when he arrived, it was in the same state as on his previous visit. Steel's advisers had failed to appreciate that the Militants had taken over Liverpool in the interim and shelved the previous council's plans.

### Browsing

Has the Labour PR machine caught up with Denis Healey? Lurching in the Commons café the other day, I spied him at the next table — his famous upward-curving eyebrows a mere whisker of their former selves. I am convinced he has trimmed them for the new session.

BARRY FANTONI



'I wonder how the BBC will report that without bias'

### Case work

The Museums Association, with what Lady Bracknell would surely have regarded less as misfortune than carelessness, has lost seven whole museums. A pathetic paragraph in its latest bulletin laments that a large number of envelopes containing requests for information for the association yearbook have been returned marked "Gone Away". Now it is appealing for "information as to the whereabouts" of seven museums, including the Beatrix Potter, Boarding House, Balloch and Bath Carriage museums.

### Digital watch

You can always tell when the strain is getting to captains of industry; they start to forget their own telephone numbers. This happened yesterday at a Manchester press conference to Sir Denis Rooke, chairman of British Cel, whose number must be among the most publicized in the country. Commenting on his £20 million publicity campaign, he cited the number to be dialled by putative shareholders as 0242 242242. Rothschild managing director Michael Richardson had to remind him that the two 4s in the second part should have been 7s. "Ah, well," said Sir Denis, "I don't have to ring it myself." There's no answer to that.

### All-rounder

Having hit himself for six, politically at least, Jeffrey Archer none the less retains his place in another arena of controversy, Somerset Cricket Club. I discover that the risk-prone novelist is a member of the club and is expected to attend tomorrow's important meeting at Shepton Mallet's Royal Bath and West showground, at which the issue of the club's two West Indian players, Viv Richards and Joel Garner, is to be discussed. I gather that his membership of the club derives from his connections with Weston-super-Mare, and that he has become quite a good friend of the two celebrated cricketers. In which case he cannot be all bad.

### Blood boiler

I have to tell you that Mrs Thatcher has missed her vocation. While she was Education Secretary in Ted Heath's government (how distant seem those shrill, pre-Saatchi, milk-snatching days) she went to Harrow for a chat with the housemaster on the progress of her soon-to-be-erant son, Mark. Sitting patiently outside the master's study, she was alarmed when the house tutor appeared and mistook our future PM for a candidate for the vacant job of matron. Unfortunately, perhaps, though perfectly understandable,

PHS

Kenneth Baker, Education Secretary, is to launch an initiative to improve the teaching of English. Here he laments the extent to which television for most children has replaced reading and argues that the language is our greatest national asset

Next to our people, our language is our greatest national asset: it is the essential ingredient of the Englishness of England. Its role in our national life is probably more important today than ever before, because it endures at a time which has seen so much that characterized our country change and disappear. Fascinating things could be said about English in relation to other parts of Britain. I shall not venture into that territory since my responsibilities as a minister are in the main limited to England.

What is it that constitutes a nation? It is the people of England who fashion the shape, create the flavour and determine the direction of our changing national consciousness. The thing that has held them together over the centuries, and would still allow an Englishman transported back 100, 200 or 400 years, if you have a good ear for accent, to recognize that he was in the same country, is the English language. So the people of England, wherever they came from in the first place (Scotland, Ireland, France, Eastern Europe, Asia or the Caribbean) have been bound together and are bound together by the English language.

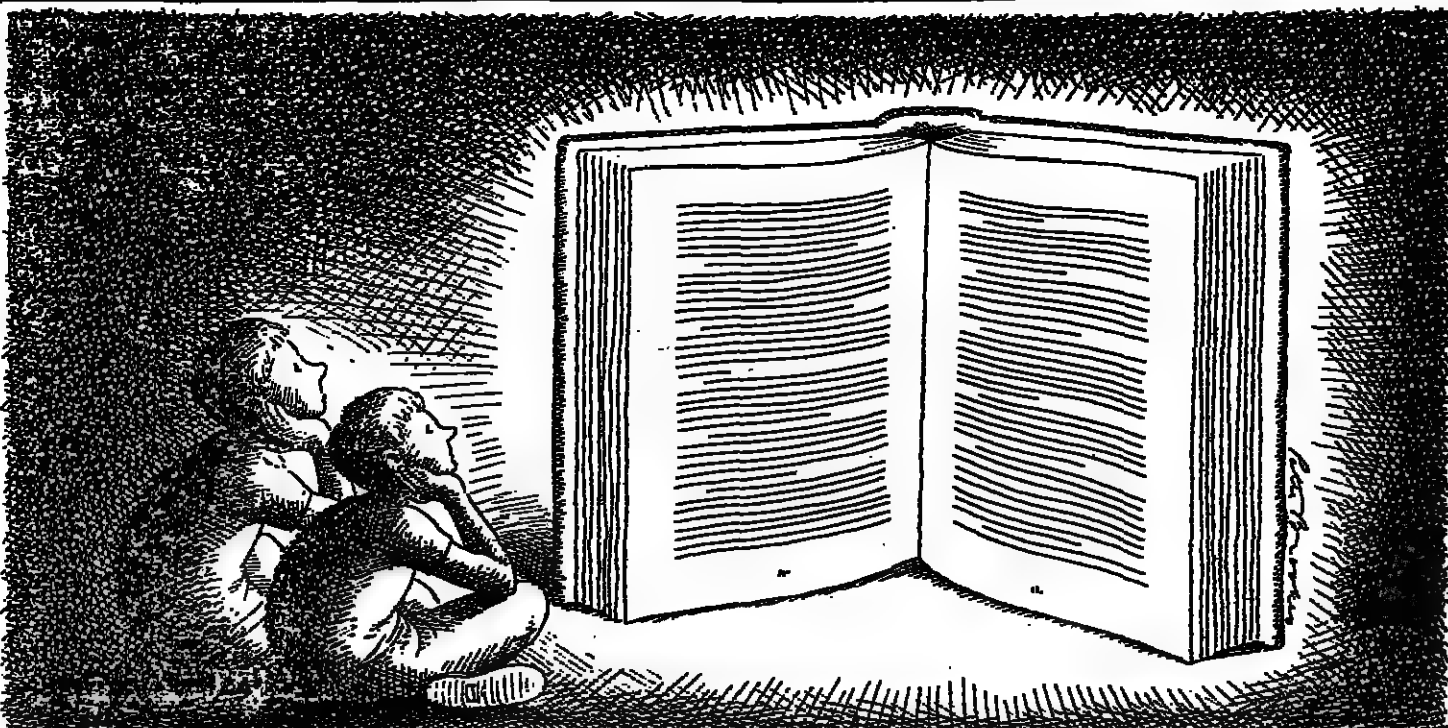
Our language must not be treated as a museum piece; to be protected from the ebb and flow of daily life; removed from the market place for fear the rough tongues of common men may tarnish and abuse it. It is a living thing healthy and robust enough to thrive in tap rooms, pulpits and senior common rooms. But that great asset must be nourished and treasured and enhanced. We are indeed lucky that it has become the main language in the world. It need not have been so. If Clive of India and Wolfe in North America had not beaten the French, and if Cook had not reached Australia when he did, then other languages might well have been more widely established.

Like a garden a language needs care and attention; it needs cultivation and I am not at all happy that this is happening. Two years ago my predecessor, Sir Keith Joseph, authorized Her Majesty's Inspectors to publish a discussion paper on the curriculum in English for children aged from five to 16.

The paper invited comments. HMI received 931 formal representations. It was quite obvious that while there was widespread agreement about the purposes of English teaching, the importance of dealing with language in use, spoken and written, and about the centrality of literature in English teaching, there was no agreement or consistency about what children of various abilities should be expected to achieve by different ages. In particular there was widespread disagreement and confusion about how our language works. For example, in a few schools there is still an attempt to teach grammar in the way that my generation understood that term. In other schools pupils are no longer taught about their own language.

What seems clear from what I have seen is the importance of reading, both for its own sake and to build up the other language skills of speaking, listening and writing.

Frequently I hear employers complain that many school leav-



## Less box, more books

ers applying for a job after 11 years of compulsory education cannot write simply, clearly and without obvious error. That is often an exaggeration, but there is disquiet. Some research which I will be publishing shortly shows that nine out of 10 of 11-year-olds said that they enjoyed reading stories, but two out of 10 indicated that they only read what they had to and four out of 10 indicated that they do not usually read at home. At the age of 15 the surveys showed the somewhat diminished enthusiasm for reading among pupils of both sexes. About eight out of 10 said they enjoyed reading, but one in four said they rarely read books at home and the same proportion indicated that, apart from school work, they only read if they wanted to find out something.

There is no doubt that children spend a lot of time looking at television. *Popular TV and School Children*, published by my department in 1983, indicated that children aged between five and 14 spend an average of 23 hours per week watching television — that's about a fifth of the waking hours.

I find this depressing. I know there are books and books and too many best-sellers today cynically cash in on a crude formula of sex and violence. But literature, the reading of good books, is a richer and deeper experience than watching television. A particular feature of the written or spoken word in isolation from visual image is the unique demand it makes upon the imagination. Written or spoken poetry and prose stimulates and enriches the imagination of the listener or reader. He cannot make sense of what he sees or hears without the full play of imagination. A society whose imagination is retarded or stagnating is a society which is looking at a bleak future. It is vital as a sustained effort, not least in our teacher training establishments and our schools, to stress the importance of books at a time when these are threatened by the persuasiveness

of television, some of which is excellent and stimulating, but much of which is mundane and brain-numbing. Even the best television adaptations of good books are thin when compared with the books themselves.

All TV drama has a tendency to concentrate on intimate human relationships. Perhaps this is dictated by the medium itself. The best drama is done consummately well; but the excellent series *The Jewel in the Crown* lost that seeming presence of India, and the politics and turmoil of a nation moving painfully towards independence, within which the last of the British Raj were caught up and buffeted around.

In the recent television version of *Bleak House* which evoked brilliantly the Victorian fog, I was sad that one of my favourite comic characters, Mrs Jellyby, was omitted.

Books, and the development in children of a love of reading for its own sake, for the enlightenment it can bring, and for the engagement with language and authors, wrestling to create sense out of chaos and to carve some meaning out of some streams of educational thought and practice. For example, that which perceives books as simply another source of information, inferior to the electronic data base or the programmed instruction manual.

Also there are those who use books as a kind of hurdle to be overcome by dint of dutiful reading in order to answer, without any real understanding, a series of peripheral, pernickety questions: "Was Duncan's blood really golden?" or "What colour were Madame Bovary's eyes?" All this loses sight of, and causes some of our children never to experience, that sense of engagement with a common humanity to which Yeats referred when he said that reading great literature "eases the dreadful loneliness of man".

Interest in reading should not just be left to the teacher or the school. The parent can have a

great influence and at an early age probably an even greater influence than school. There is now ample evidence to show that children benefit in language skills, in understanding and expressing themselves, if stories are read to them by their parents and their parents encourage them to read, and to talk about their thoughts and experiences. But it is all too easy for a child to switch on *Eggs* *Bunny* or *Donald Duck* rather than take a book off the shelf and read it at bedtime.

It has become unfashionable to teach children the benefits of learning things by heart. Learning by heart is not only good memory training. It also gives a sense of achievement. But it need not be a chore. Children who come to enjoy poetry by hearing it spoken well, and speaking it confidently themselves, will learn it by heart because speaking poetry well cannot be done if your eyes are tied to the printed page. I suspect I shall be told by many educators that I'm old-fashioned. But being old-fashioned is not the same as being wrong.

Analysis of modern culture is a hazardous affair. Firm footholds in the marshy ground are few and far between. But there are some very fine popular writers about both of children's books and adult literature. I believe that all our children should be exposed to the great poetry and classical literature of our past. But I also want to promote the habit of reading contemporary literature and to stress that it is still not only stimulating and educational, but also enjoyable.

The novels of such writers as John Le Carré, Iris Murdoch, John Fowles and Beryl Bainbridge have very wide appeal. It is interesting that the production of novels on film or television still boost enormously the sale of the books. The television presentation of *The Mayor of Casterbridge*, of *Hard Times* and *Howards End* ensured a substantial increase in paper-

back sales. It would appear that the public demand reassurance from their global village media that the written form is acceptable or manageable.

I would like to see bench marks for progress in English which actually set out lists of the sorts of books or authors which children should be able to read and understand at particular ages and levels of achievement. For example, in the case of children of average ability, *Animal Farm* by age 12 or *David Copperfield* by age 13. You won't be surprised to know that I am told this is too radical or too centralist or too dictatorial. More seriously I am warned of the dangers of setting minimum or maximum standards because minimum standards depress expectations and maximum standards not only hold back the ablest but discourage those who cannot reach them.

I know that there is more to selecting books for children to read than gauging the difficulty of the language. *Animal Farm* is a deceptively simple book written as it is in the form of a fable in which animals talk. There is a risk that teachers and parents can be pushed by the presence of technical competence to introduce some books too early, before the necessary experience of life has developed in the reader the capacity really to engage with the book. When I discussed this idea with a teacher working on the excellent but badly named *Low Achieving Pupils' Project*, he told me that a list of books would be OK, but I ought to include such works as the user's manual for the latest 250cc Japanese motorbike. I take his point.

It is of course important that the new proper emphasis on the application and practical aspects of subjects as exemplified in technical and vocational education initiative, in the GCSE and in the new City Technology Colleges, should not lead to any diminution of the appreciation of the magic and potency of literature. In particular I want to see a new emphasis on getting every child in

a class to read aloud and communicate with the teacher and with other children, to have confidence in using words in all circumstances, I fear in too many of our schools passivity has been allowed to be the norm.

Education must, as one of its central purposes, make its pupils reflective users of our language: able to understand it as well as to use it; to be in control of it rather than at its mercy. The English language is our children's birthright. By an early age they will all, with very few exceptions, have learnt most of its particular conventions and syntax in speech. They are from birth immersed in a living language through which they increasingly learn to describe, understand and control their environment; deepen and enrich their personal relationships; marshal and order their thoughts, and express their feelings. In teaching English it is the teacher's task to build on this. Our children through themselves using and experiencing language in speech, writing, reading and listening should come to respect and love it. They should not fear it for the snares of its syntax, nor regard the language used by them as an inferior form to that of great literature or of fine orators.

I have come to the conclusion that a specific new initiative is needed. I will be appointing a high-level independent committee to recommend what pupils in our schools should know about the English language. The results will then need to be taken on board in teacher training and in classroom practice.

One of the great mysteries is that the language of the playground and the market place is the same as that of Shakespeare and Milton. The trick pulled off daily by good teachers, is to explore how it is that commonplace words in a particular order, in a particular context, can move us to laughter or tears; can give us a fleeting glimpse into meaning that lies beyond words. On the face of it there is nothing complex about Houseman's

On Wenlock Edge the wood's  
in trouble.  
His forest fleece the Wrekin  
heaves.  
The wind it plies the saplings  
double,  
And thick on Severn snow the  
leaves.

But why and how does it flow so smoothly and so sadly; and what do these relatively plain words hint at beyond an autumn wind in Shropshire?

To explore language like this, alongside that used in the thousand and one transactions of our mundane lives, in ways that generate competence, but which do not undermine the confidence to use words with freshness, felicity and vigour, is what I see as good English teaching.

My test of quality is that our children emerge from the process with a love for English; a proper respect for the right words in the right order; and with their linguistic competence enhanced. But above all they should emerge with the confidence that comes from knowing that the language belongs to them and is in their keeping for the time being, and that is both a reassuring and awesome prospect. Extracted from the Alan Palmer lecture, which Mr Baker will be giving tonight.

John O'Sullivan

## Don't write off Reaganism



Roosevelt and Eisenhower both suffered far worse midterm setbacks during their presidencies

pared to 55-43 per cent in the previous midterm elections in 1938 and 1942. The Republican losses, secondly, resulted mainly from the victories of southern Democrats who are every bit as conservative as Reagan himself.

Thirdly, the losses occurred in the middle of his second term when he has only a year of effective government before campaigning for the 1988 congressional elections begins in earnest. And, finally, the winning Democratic issues amounted to a "me too" campaign which refrained from criticizing Reagan's policies on taxation, defence, the budget and East-West relations and concentrated on local issues of no general or lasting importance.

To grasp the novel curiosity of all this, cast your mind back to the midterm elections of 1982. Democrats fought that campaign in the bitterness of terms, damning Reagan as an ideological extremist whose policies would impoverish the country, heighten racial tension, encourage crime, and threaten peace — the Healey view of things. In fact, by 1984 this

indictment had been reduced to the argument that although he was a fine fellow personally, his policies were risky and unpopular. His election was a reflection of his personal popularity and therefore had no political significance.

Now, two years later (when, according to the 1982 predictions, the Tiber should be foaming with blood), Reagan's policies have been rehabilitated as well to the extent that the Democrats either support them or greatly mute their opposition. It is a remarkable turn around. The entire political spectrum has moved to the right. Healey, who has seen the Labour Party undergo the same process in reverse, should recognize what has happened.

The Democrats are, of course, adapting to popular opinion. The polls have shown a high approval rating for Reagan's policies in general, and large support for certain policies in particular. The Strategic Defence Initiative, for instance, is distinctly popular and its popularity has risen since the Reykjavik summit. It cannot have been part of Gorbachev's inten-

tion to entrench SDI, but the strength of his opposition to it seems to have convinced Americans that they have something worth keeping.

But the shift to the right is of much longer gestation. In the mid-1970s, when people were asked in opinion polls to identify the party they felt they belonged to, the Democrats received twice as much support as the Republicans — 46 per cent to 23 per cent on average. These figures have been shifting in the Republicans' favour ever since so that today about 36 per cent of voters identify with the Democrats and 33 with the Republicans.

Barring great convulsions like a war or a depression, moreover, this trend is likely to continue. For, as *Public Opinion* magazine pointed out in a recent issue, Democrats are dying and Republicans are being born (or at least going on the electoral register). The most strongly Democratic age cohort is that which formed its political sympathies during the Great Depression; its members are now aged between 63 and 72 and will gradually — how shall I put it — decline in psephological importance.

By contrast there are healthy majorities for the Republicans among those aged 27 and below who came to political maturity during the Carter and Reagan presidencies. And since Reagan is apparently just as popular with their younger brothers and sisters at school and university, the natural constituency of the Republicans will continue growing for some years. This means that Reaganism is likely to remain the status quo to which both parties adjust.

Of course, there is more to life and politics than statistics of party identification. The Democrats have just received a psychological boost from their capture of the Senate. They may build on their new moderation to launch a more serious bid for the presidency in 1988. Reagan may be followed by Republican contenders who lack his talent for arousing and uniting America's natural conservative majority. Some great convulsion might change everything. But Healey should adjust to the fact that real life is not *Dynasty*. He is not going to wake up to find the last few years have been a horrible nightmare and that President Carter is still dispensing homilies from the White House.

moreover... Miles Kington

## Rallying round a rival in distress

You sometimes wonder if there is anything sporting about sport any more. Even in a comparatively gentlemanly activity like yachting, the America's Cup seems informed by bitter rivalry, while in football it came as no surprise earlier this season to learn that Manchester United players had been inflicting malicious injuries on one another in training. So I felt my eyebrows go up several feet the other day to hear of a sport where generosity still exists, and where rivals will help you up when you're down.

I have a young friend called Paul Moss who goes rallying — that is, he drives at high speed from one check-point to another down mean streets and along nearly non-existent roads, watching bits of his car drop off and getting from it a pleasure I do not even start to understand. He goes in for rallies whenever he can afford it and usually either wins or fails to finish — last year he came first in the Beaulieu rally — and has just come back from a North American rally — the Canamex — of wonderful severity.

Paul drove 3,000 miles in three days from New York to Vancouver just to get to the start, so he was pretty tired when he began. As the race was spread over 16,000 miles, which is the equivalent of driving up and down Britain ten times, it was inevitable that sooner or later he would fall asleep at the wheel, and he clearly remembers waking up and seeing a large rock rush towards him at 80 mph. He managed to avoid the rock but hit something else hard enough to nearly cripple the front wheels and gear box. He had to drive the remaining 300 miles of that day's stage in a dazed gear.

When he and his navigator arrived, they found the wheels were so jammed up into the wheel casing that they had to chain the front of the car to a tree and then reverse away rapidly to free the parts. It still needed major surgery on the car if they were to continue, and this is where rallying sounds

like an old-fashioned sport, because some of Paul's rival drivers stayed up most of the night, working on the car with him. Can you imagine that happening in any other sport?

The only car in the event which didn't share this spirit of camaraderie was driven by two men who constantly attempted to get the rest disqualified through petty objections. Paul came across these creeps on the way down to Mexico, thoroughly broken down with a shattered axle.

"So you drove past them with a wave, did you?" I asked. "Couldn't really," said Paul. "We stopped to find out what was wrong, drove into the next town to get a spare axle and came back with it for them. We lost three hours, but we couldn't really leave them, could we?"

As far as I can tell, the hairiest moments came in Mexico, on Highway 51, though it wasn't much of a highway. "A lot of it isn't metalled and some of it isn't there at all. One stretch we averaged only four miles an hour because the road had been washed away on either side and become as narrow as the car. Eventually we came to a bit where the road was narrower than the car, with a steep drop on either side."

Good Lord. What did you do? "We stopped, built a ramp with our bare hands from earth, then took a run at it, just hoping that the car would fly across the gap. Luckily, it did. Oh, this was in the middle of the night, by the way."

Some of the other cars were lavishly equipped, down to back-up teams and even a film crew. Paul, one of nature's improvisers, had little more than a bag of tools, but even so managed to come first in his class and ninth overall. A disastrous result, in my view, as it will only encourage him to enter more rallies if he gets the backing, but at least he seems to be in a sport where, when in trouble, you can turn to your enemies for help. There can't be many like that. In fact, I can't think of any.

John O'Sullivan





1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481 4100

## POLICY POSTPONED

The Autumn Statement delivered to Parliament yesterday by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Nigel Lawson, is a defeat for the Government. The best that can be said is that it is a defeat against overwhelming odds and unlike some previous reverses tries to make a virtue of realism. In political terms to have won a victory and kept public spending to previously planned levels might have turned out to be Pyrrhic.

Mrs Thatcher came to power with the intention of reducing public spending. In the event this did not prove realistic and the policy was turned into one of keeping spending level in real terms. The increases announced yesterday of £4½ billion in spending next year and £5½ billion in 1988-89 display an even less ambitious profile converting the prospect of level spending in real terms to one of rising expenditure. This was not the prospect on which the Government was elected.

Although financial markets have discounted some increase in spending in election year yesterday's statement will do little to reassure. With monetary policy pragmatic to a dangerous degree it is even more desirable that fiscal policy should be firmly disciplined. Mr Lawson promised in his statement that there would be no relaxation of the Government's fiscal stance. There is no sign that borrowing is overrunning in the current year. Markets derived some comfort yesterday from what seemed to be a more welcoming attitude to EMS membership. But it is clearly

more difficult to maintain a prudent fiscal stance if spending is higher.

Admittedly this year's public spending survey has been the most difficult in the life of this Government. At this stage in the electoral cycle there have been strong pressures to trail the Government's coat before the electorate. Every minister has wanted to deck himself out in something old and something new, and the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Mr John MacGregor, has had to take a more sensitive approach to his task than comes naturally to the Treasury.

In addition to electoral pressures the Government has had to pay a high price for unrealistic provision in previous surveys. There is always a temptation to pare down spending in future years in the hope that it can be forced to conform to the numbers determined by the Government rather than the other way round. But this seldom works in the case of the local authorities where the Government has no direct power over the majority of council budgets. Nor can ministers do much to control the degree to which social security benefits are taken up. The Government has reasonably taken the view that a dose of realism has to be applied to the figures inherited from previous surveys.

The need for realism is all the greater because of the prospective overrun on spending of £½ billion in the current year. For a brief moment last year it seemed as though the habit of making plans which were invariably exceeded

might have been exchanged for plans which were actually met (or in last year's case under-shot). But we seem to be back to the bad old days.

Electoral pressures and the unpaid bills of previous years go far to explain the rise in spending. They do not justify it. Higher public spending inevitably means less scope for cutting taxes and the postponement of those improvements in incentives so important to galvanising the economy. Mr Lawson made no mention of tax cuts yesterday and he is right to be cautious. Even if the buoyancy of non-oil revenue does at the end of the day permit a modest reduction, the chances of achieving a target of 25p in the basic rate of income tax in this Parliament now look slim.

For the future this matters much. In the immediate political calculus it may not weigh so heavily. Some expenditure of treasure to buy off the most pressing concerns about public spending was almost inevitable. If Mr Kinnock calls the Government "high spending" who can complain that it is miserly?

The immediate economic outlook is good with the economy expected to grow by 3 per cent next year and inflation still below 4 per cent. Consumer spending is forecast to remain buoyant and the balance of payments deficit to be manageable at £1½ billion. It is a prospect which will have a good deal of appeal for the electorate, as also for the wettier wing of the Tory party. But it is one of hope postponed for the longer term reform of the economy.

## FIVE MISTAKES ABOUT MR TEBBIT

The adage that truth is the first casualty of war has now received an exhaustive testing in regard to the US raid on Libya. It has been less tested, however, in regard to the war between the BBC and the Chairman of the Conservative Party, Mr Norman Tebbit. Indeed, a number of misconceptions have arisen about this latter conflict which make the differences between the BBC and ITN handling of the Libyan raid (important though they are to those concerned about the quality of broadcast journalism) of considerably lesser account.

The first misconception is that Mr Tebbit's attack was aimed at improving the Conservatives' chances of winning the next election by reducing the anti-government content of political programmes. In order to believe that one has to believe that Mr Tebbit has completely lost touch with the deep rooted views of the British electorate, at least as far as they concern the independence of the BBC. It is possible to make many charges against Mr Tebbit but not that.

The electorate likes the BBC very much. It may be wrong to have such reverential feelings towards an organisation which needs to change with the times and shows little sign of appreciating that necessity. But there are no votes in bashing the BBC — as Mr Tebbit well knows.

The second misconception is that the Tory party chairman, in indulging himself in a vote-losing exercise on behalf of his party, has damaged his own interests. Quite the reverse is likely to be the case.

Mr Tebbit does, of course, look increasingly isolated on this issue, as on a number of others. The Prime Minister has given him only the minimum possible support in the House of Commons. His Cabinet colleagues — the most conspicuously quiet being the Home Secretary, Mr Douglas Hurd — have given him less.

## Leadership skills

From Dr P. M. Gaffney  
Sir, I read your feature by Edward Fennel (October 27) on "the dismal lack of graduates with the talent to motivate and organise others" both with interest and disappointment. The article draws many salient points and succeeds in clearly defining a worrying problem. There exist, however, several movements in Oxfordshire and wider, aimed at addressing this problem through extra-curricular activities and with the active help of industry.

Across the field of secondary education more effort than ever before is being directed at broadening our students' horizons by developing in them skills of management, leadership and communication. This reawakening of interest to an age-old problem is partly due to our

in the common currency of political debate, isolation is a bad thing. It means a reduced ability to get one's way. For those, however, who are looking beyond today's headlines, beyond the next election, and up towards the leadership battle to come, a degree of isolation is essential.

During the Westland crisis much of Mr Michael Heseltine's motive in pushing his case beyond the strict bounds of reason was his determination to escape from the Prime Minister's shadow — and to do so on the best possible issue to hand. *The Times* came under much "informed" criticism for suggesting this allegedly ignominious motive. Nothing that has happened since has led us to depart from it.

Mr Tebbit's position is somewhat harder. He is the Chairman of the Conservative Party. While Mr Heseltine would still have a chance to lead his party (some might say a better chance) if it lost the election, Mr Tebbit would not. That is not, however, to say that Mr Tebbit should do nothing but garner votes for the Tories. (The party is doing none too badly at that, anyway.) He must also consider his own position as an independent fighter. It takes courage to take on the BBC. A reputation for courageous independence is likely to live on long after the minutiae of Mr John Humphrey's script-writing skills have passed back into the ether whence they came.

The third misconception is that Mr Tebbit's action is part of the movement to reform the BBC, a movement which *The Times* can claim to have played a modest part in initiating. The BBC chairman, Mr Duke Hussey, must have been wringing his hands in rage yesterday on the first day in his new office. His options in, for example, dealing with his beleaguered Director General, Mr Alasdair Milne, have been severely reduced by Mr

Tebbit's broadside. His ability to manage property future *Real Lives* or *Maggie's Militant Tendencies* has also been hindered. Even more importantly, the Peacock reforms, including the privatisation of Radios One and Two, can be now all the more easily dubbed Tebbitism — and dismissed.

There is a danger that the three misconceptions, which we have so far addressed, may engender a fourth, the idea that Mr Tebbit's substantial attack on the BBC coverage of the Libyan bombing was unjustified and that the BBC made a comprehensive rebuttal of it. Not all of his arrows hit the target. But too many did so for the BBC to do its traditional garb of smug superiority in the face of criticism.

It is noteworthy that so much of the discussion surrounding this affair has concentrated on recalling other occasions when the brave BBC beat off attempts to influence its output by Eden, Wilson, Callaghan etc. In view of the high temperatures and stifling levels of dust that have been generated by Mr Tebbit's intervention, it might more properly be argued that the principle of public service broadcasting — of which the news bulletins are so pre-eminently a part — has been subjected to too little political debate, not too much.

It is because the BBC has needed to do so little to explain its principles, because it has managed so easily to persuade investigators of its inalienable rightness of its cause, that BBC employees have become so arrogant in their manners and so uncritical of their own behaviour. It is that arrogance and that lack of self-criticism that has led to so many of the Corporation's recent failings.

It would be a fifth misconception, were it to be suggested that Mr Tebbit's concern about the extent of those failings was anything but wholly sincere.

charity which gives the starting resources to secondary education establishments to allow their involvement in these activities.

During last year a pilot management-training course was run in Churchill as an extra-curricular activity. Great emphasis was placed on leadership training although the curriculum in fact covered a broad spectrum of skills. These activities were very successful, as proved by the marked change in and increased maturity of the undergraduates who joined the course and are now a part of college life. An essential element in the success of the project has been the friendly cooperation we have received from industry.

Yours faithfully,  
PHILIP M. GAFFNEY  
(Tutor for Industrial Liaison),  
Churchill College,  
Cambridge.  
October 29.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Change, tradition and European law

From the Minister of State,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Sir, Lord Denning, in Monday's *Times* (November 3), argued that the Single European Act undermined Parliament's sovereignty but that, now that Parliament had taken a decision, all should rally in support. I agree with Lord Denning's conclusions, but for a different reason.

It is true that the Single European Act changes the Treaty of Rome and thus adjusts the basis of our membership of the Community. But it does so in ways which are helpful to this country. The Treaty of Rome was negotiated by the original six member States — not by us.

This time it is different. We have negotiated changes to the Treaty of Rome. Far from saying farewell to our sovereignty, we have enhanced our ability to act, with our partners, for our own good. I will give two examples. We need a single large Community market if we are to sell our goods and services in Europe. We do not yet have it. German law prevents German citizens from buying insurance on the London market. Very few countries allow anything like free competition in air services. We need to change all that.

The Single European Act will allow a majority vote on those issues where we need decisions and where our interests are harmed by the current rule which allows action to be blocked indefinitely by one member State alone. But we have not gone overboard. There are many issues where the agreement of all member States will be required, for example tax matters.

Second, we need to be able to compete on equal terms with the US and Japan in the new technologies. That means more cooperation between European firms and governments. The Single European Act creates the legal framework to make it possible. We have the tools. It is now up to us to get on with the job.

Parliament and the people have decided that it is in the Community that our interests lie. It would be perverse to think that this country could possibly gain from pulling out of a Community which has helped sustain peace and promote democracy in Europe; which enables us to bargain with collective strength in international negotiations and which creates the economies of scale which alone can make us competitive with the US and Japan.

The Community may have its many faults. But the answer to its imperfections is to correct them from within, not suffer their consequences outside, powerless to do anything to put things right. In the House of Lords on Monday Lord Denning warned us not to be

isolationist but to realise the importance of what we could contribute to the European Community.

The Single European Act will help us to do that. More important still, it will help us realise more fully the benefits of our membership. I am glad that Parliament, and Lord Denning, agree. Yours truly,  
LYNDA CHALKER,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office, SW1.  
November 5.

From Professor Emeritus B. A. Worley, QC  
Sir, Lord Denning rightly points out that German "inflatable rubber dolls" which our Customs judged to be obscene may be allowed entry here under the European Economic Treaty. However, all may not be lost.

The other European Court, that of Human Rights, at Strasbourg, might well accept an individual petition against such entry on the basis of article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights, giving individuals the right to respect for his "family life, his home and his correspondence" and "for the protection of health or morals".

Yours obediently,  
B. A. WORTLEY,  
24 Gravel Lane,  
Wiltshire, Cheshire.

## Art trade threat

From Mr George J. Levy  
Sir, Mr Hugh Leggatt (October 24) makes an eloquent plea for the nation to acquire Constable's "Flatford Lock and Mill", which is to be sold at Christie's on November 21.

In supporting his views, may I in addition point out that this masterpiece has been imported from the USA into this country for sale. Further, your report (October 28) that Sotheby's are to offer at auction a Rembrandt and two Frans Hals portraits, which have also entered this country from America.

These auctions underline London's outstanding position as centre of the world's art trade. Sadly this position is in severe danger of being irrevocably damaged. No such masterpieces would come here for sale but would be auctioned in New York if the proposed EEC directive requiring 10 per cent VAT to be levied on the import of all works of art coming into this country were imposed.

There is imminent danger that this legislation will go through the European Parliament on the nod. Time, Sir, is not on our side. Yours faithfully,  
GEORGE J. LEVY, Director,  
H. Blairman & Sons,  
119 Mount Street, W1.  
November 5.

## White poppies

From the Chairman, Executive Committee of the Peace Pledge Union

Sir, Like Christopher Cribbie (October 31) I, too, am saddened by noisy political intrusion into the quiet reflection of Remembrance Day. My difference from him is that I find the booming of guns, the sound of marching boots and the clanking of medals an intrusion into the grief I personally feel over the loss of relatives and friends in war. I also find the laying of wreaths by leaders of parties all of whom advocate war as an instrument of future policy a political intrusion into what should be a dedication to future peace.

It is because thousands share such feelings with me that the Peace Pledge Union has for over 50 years used the white poppy as a non-militarist symbol of our sorrow for the suffering both of our wars and the wars which are now taking place and will take place

with weapons this country produces. We hold our own walk to the Cenotaph and lay a white wreath on the afternoon of Remembrance Day, but in complete and reflective silence.

May I also assure John Cohen (October 31) that we in the Peace Pledge Union do not forget the disabled, the widowed, the orphaned and the refugees of war. In the material we publish to explain our view of Remembrance we make a particular point of drawing the reader's attention to what Wilfred Owen, killed a week before the 1918 armistice, called "the truth untold, the pity of war, the pity war distilled".

Let us also remember that it was Wilfred Owen who bade us not to "decorate the old lie, Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori". Yours peacefully,  
WILLIAM HETHERINGTON,  
Chairman, Executive Committee,  
Peace Pledge Union,  
Dick Sheppard House,  
6 Endsleigh Street, WC1.  
November 3.

## Emergency call

From Mr Stephen Jay

Sir, Mr Bees suggests (October 28) that details of next of kin might be included on the credit cards of the elderly people living alone. Mrs Harrison (November 1) points out that this and other useful information can equally well be displayed on a card pinned near the telephone.

Surely it is more important to ensure that elderly people can summon immediate aid should they fall or suddenly become ill? This is now possible at relatively modest cost thanks to developments in technology.

Those at risk wear a small pendant-like device. In an emergency, they simply press the button on the pendant; this alerts the operator at a permanently manned central station, and within minutes help can be at their side.

Yours faithfully,  
STEPHEN JAY (Administrator,  
The Home Call Trust),  
34 Logan Road, Bristol, Avon.

## Defence of Welsh

From Mr David Phillips

Sir, With great respect, I cannot help feeling that Mr Gwynfor Evans (November 1) has misunderstood Bernard Levin's article (October 28).

As I read it, Bernard Levin was criticizing not the efforts to preserve the Welsh language and culture, but the methods used to attain that very worthy object.

I yield to none in admiration for the principality and its people, but have myself been exasperated at the mess made by the language enthusiasts in splashing green paint untidily over road signs, and I was somewhat disillusioned to see a perfectly good Welsh place-

name, Fair-Rhos, obliterated, presumably because the first syllable (a mutation of "Mair" — Mary) spells an English word.

In the parts of Wales which I know best the children learn their lessons in English, but play their games in Welsh and thus grow up bilingual without the intervention of the Welsh language enthusiasts whose activities I understood to be the subject of Bernard Levin's comments.

Yours truly,  
DAVID PHILLIPS,  
44 Wincham Grove, SW11.  
November 1.

## A straight flush

From Professor Leslie Collier

Sir, Mr Bernard Levin's preference for the word "lavatory" over "toilet", "bathroom" and so forth (November 3) is surely illogical, since washing, although highly desirable, is not the primary object of a visit.

Other euphemisms such as "privy" and "house of office" have been in general use for centuries; and if a euphemism we must have, then let it be "toilet", which, with slight local nuances of pronunciation, is used and understood in most places from Calcutta to California.

When in urgent need abroad, pedantry must yield to expediency; and whereas a literary description of one's objective will demand time-wasting scrabbling in pocket dictionaries, or even recourse to unseemly sign language, "toilet" will more often than not evoke the all-important rapid response from almost any passer-by.

Yours faithfully,  
LESLIE COLLIER,  
Bronte Cottage,  
89 South End Road, NW3.  
November 3.

## Pensions as a financial tool

From Mr Iain B. Walker

Sir, Would the Courage brewery workers have gone on strike over the proposed arrangements (report, November 1) had they believed the Imperial pension scheme to be underfunded? In these circumstances I suspect they would have been glad to see their "statutory pension rights" covered by the transfer and shed few tears for their former parent company left to fund a deficit.

A pension scheme is currently a legitimate financial tool of the sponsoring company. The principle has been endorsed by the Government in their setting ground rules for the degree of over-funding to be tolerated.

Pension funds are tax shelters for company profits, a store in times of plenty and a source of sustenance in lean years. Profits dumped in them accumulate independently of the company's own performance — many company pension funds have outperformed the company's own return on capital.

What price does a company pay for this privilege? There is a charge against the assets of their pension fund — the pension benefits as defined in the pension scheme rules. This is, however, often minimal in terms of the present liability as compared with the potential liability — especially when the prospect of ex-gratia/discretionary awards is taken into account.

In times of takeovers and sell-offs the company pension fund is to all intents and purposes an asset of the company. The surprising thing about all this is that employees agree to pay their contributions into the same fund. Yours faithfully,  
IAN WALKER,  
40 Ennismore Gardens, SW7.  
November 2.

## Research decline

From the Editor of the British Veterinary Journal

Sir, Your report on the decline of scientific research in the UK (October 16) sounds a timely alarm. Although research funding fell over the last decade, few studies measure the effect of this on performance which, in veterinary science, is considerable.

The number of UK veterinary publications fell from 13.7 to 10.4 per cent of world output between 1965 and 1985. In the US it rose from 24.6 to 26.9 per cent, in France from 3.6 to 4.5 per cent, in Italy from 1.8 to 2.5 per cent, in Holland from 1.7 to 2.3 per cent and in Japan from 3.5 to 4.6 per cent. The USSR and the Eastern block share our decline.

In the UK the decline over the last decade has come primarily from the veterinary schools of the universities and the institutes of the Agriculture and Food Research Council. Perhaps surprisingly, industrial research followed suit and thus the commercial sector is unlikely to compensate for the general downhill trend.

Doubtless the decline in veterinary output follows from shrinking budgets and decrease in number of veterinary scientists. Is this sensible when world markets for veterinary products beckon and our potential contribution to world health gives added incentive? We certainly have the advantage of greater use of the English language for communication.

Yours sincerely,  
JACK M. PAYNE, Editor,  
British Veterinary Journal,  
c/o Baillière Tindall,  
1 Vincent Square, SW1.

## Marriage guidance

From Mrs Philippa Seligman

Sir, Miss Cato (October 30) suggests a second tier of less trained marriage-guidance counsellors. The emotional complexities of a troubled marriage and the repercussions for children, parents and grandparents are daunting. By the time they get to marriage-guidance counsellors they have usually already been dealt with at the "shoulder-to-cries-on" level unsuccessfully and need a more objective and skilled approach.

Services such as these should not be pressured, by lack of money, into a lowering of standards. National and local government must recognise the consequences of undervaluing both the professional and the voluntary helping agencies in the community.

Yours sincerely,  
PHILIPPA SELIGMAN  
(Chairman, The Family Institute),  
105 Cathedral Road,  
Cardiff, South Glamorgan.  
October 30.

## In good company

From Sir Hugh Greene

Sir, In his article in *The Times* of November 1 your Media Correspondent, Mr Jonathan Miller, states that since the days of Sir John Reith the BBC has been run by "programmers and producers". Reith's successor, Ogilvie, came from the academic world, Foot from the Gas, Light and Coke Company, Haley was a journalist from the *Manchester Evening News* and Reuters, Jacob had had a distinguished military career, and I had been a foreign correspondent.

A varied company, I suppose that one of the few things we had in common was that not one of us had ever produced a radio or television programme. Yours faithfully,  
HUGH GREENE,  
Flat 7,  
10 Palace Gate, W8.  
November 1.

## ON THIS DAY

NOVEMBER 7 1846

The case of Lieutenant William Green, RN (1785-1846) was strongly pressed by *The Times*, which twice urged the Government to make more provision for his widow and seven daughters. He had also left three sons, one a medical student, the others in the Navy, who faced loss of advancement through lack of funds. *The Conqueror*, in which Green served, distinguished itself in the Battle of Trafalgar, captured the French flagship, *Bucentaure*, and with her the commander-in-chief.

## UNFAIR TREATMENT OF AN OFFICER

No one will have read without indignation and disgust the particulars which appeared under the heading of "Naval Intelligence" in our paper of yesterday. We allude to the details of the services of Lieutenant WILLIAM PRINGLE GREEN, who died lately in poverty, at the age of sixty-one, after having served his country with extraordinary zeal for nearly half a century. His career is a striking instance of the disproportion between merit and reward in the naval profession; for, though ill-health may have had some share in checking his advancement, the neglect and disappointment he endured could not have been the result of mere misfortune. He entered the navy in 1787 and was immediately sent on active service. He distinguished himself even in the first three years of his career, but, being detained on foreign stations by the mortality in the fleet, he was unable to obtain leave to visit England, which it was necessary for him to do before he could pass his examination for promotion. . . . Again, a later period, the urgency of the service prevented his obtaining leave to pass his examination, by which he lost more than three years' rank; and it was not until he distinguished himself in the capture of the *Bucentaure*, when he was in command of the boats which were twice sunk, that he was selected by his Captain as having merited the rank of Lieutenant. He was last found a friend in the Duke of Kent, who got him appointed to the *Europe*, a frigate, which was employed as a ship of observation on the American lines, where he made some valuable observations on the mode of construction and equipment of the ships in the American navy. . . . That these were not the mere speculations of a well-meaning enthusiast, but the valuable suggestions of a practical seaman, is proved by the decision of many of his recommendations, for which the thanks of the Admiralty were repeatedly awarded him. In 1815 the ship in which he had been employed was paid off, and the Duke of Kent personally interested himself in Lieutenant Green's behalf; but the answer of the First Lord of the Admiralty was to the effect that, peace having been proclaimed, there was an end to promotion. The plan of the Duke of Kent was that Lieutenant Green, who had laboured hard during the war, and had introduced improvements in the navy, many of which are in use to this day, was no longer wanted. Still faithful to a profession in which he had experienced nothing but ingratitude and neglect, he devoted his time to devising improvements in the navy, one of which having been imitated obtained a reward of five thousand pounds from the Admiralty. Lieutenant Green, the originality of whose invention was acknowledged by the Solicitor to the Admiralty, got nothing. At length, in 1829, he was appointed to a Falmouth packet as a reward for his long and numerous services. He gave up a lucrative mercantile employment under the assurance that his appointment was for life; but at the end of two years and ten months, the vessel was paid off, without any provision being made for Lieutenant Green, though others similarly situated were not subjected to such injustice. In 1842 he was made Lieutenant of the *Victory*, but in 12 months he was removed without any explanation, and he remained until the day of his death unwarded and neglected. He leaves a wife and seven daughters to live, if they can, on a Lieutenant's pittance of fifty pounds per annum. . . . The fate of Lieutenant Green will teach all who enter the navy, that the sincerest devotion to the interests of their profession for a period of fifty years may bring ruin upon themselves and leave little better than destitution to their families. We hope the Government will not hesitate, by some compensation to the widow and children, to repair, in some degree, the injustice dealt to the the husband and father. We boast of the security we feel in the strength and patriotism of our navy, but here is an instance — and by no means an uncommon one — of the manner in which we repay those to whom we are so deeply indebted. We have empty compliments, and sometimes fulsome panegyrics, for "gallant tars" and "British seamen" but, from the treatment extended to some of the worthiest of our "hearts of oak," it would seem that the national heart was made of the same unyielding material.

## Phrase or fable?

From Mr J. N. Hare

Sir, "Cheer up for Chatham, wooden legs are cheap" was the expression used by our young children's aged aunt when she witnessed one of their tearful accidents.

Did Pitt subsidise wooden legs for Napoleonic veterans and is the cheer one of three? If so, the subsidy is still referred to in one household. Is it known in any other?

I have the honour to be, Sir, Your obedient servant,  
J. N. HARE,  
School Farm, Benenden, Kent.





## COURT AND SOCIAL

### COURT CIRCULAR

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
November 6: His Excellency Mr Stan Soare was received in audience by The Queen this morning and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the Socialist Republic of Romania to the Court of St James's.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the Embassy who had the honour of being presented to Her Majesty: Mr Victor Chiujea (Counsellor), Mr Gheorghe Culai (First Secretary), Mr Drago Antonescu (First Secretary), Mr Gheorghe Dragu (Second Secretary) and Mr Ion Gheorghe (Second Secretary).

Mrs Soare had the honour of being received by The Queen.

Sir Patrick Wright (Permanent Under Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) who had the honour of being received by Her Majesty was present and the Gentlemen of the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

Mrs Gray had the honour of being received by The Queen.

Sir Oliver Wright, Sir John Graham, Sir Sir Sydney Gifford, Sir Leonard Allison and Sir Francis Kennedy had the honour of being received by The Queen upon their retirement from the Diplomatic Service.

Lady Wright, Lady Graham, Lady Gifford, Lady Allison and Lady Kennedy had the honour of being received by Her Majesty.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh this evening attended a dinner given by the Commonwealth High Commissioners to mark Her Majesty's 60th Birthday, at Marlborough House.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness were received by His Excellency Mr Shridath Ramphal (Commonwealth Secretary-General) and His Excellency the High Commissioner for Swaziland (Doyen of the Diplomatic Corps and Senior High Commissioner).

The Marchioness of

Abergavenny, the Right Hon Sir William Heseltine and Lieutenant-Colonel John Brewer upon relinquishing command of the 2nd Battalion and Lieutenant-Colonel Sandy McNeil upon assuming command.

The Prince of Wales, Colonel in Chief, The Parachute Regiment, received Lieutenant-Colonel Christopher Keeble upon relinquishing command of the 15th (Volunteer) Battalion and Lieutenant-Colonel Walker upon assuming command.

His Royal Highness, Trustee, The National Gallery, this afternoon attended a meeting of the Board of Trustees at The National Gallery, London WC2.

Sir John Riddell Bt, was in attendance.

The Prince of Wales, Patron, The William and Mary Trust, this afternoon visited the Board of Trustees at The National Gallery, London WC2.

Lady Aird was in attendance.

Her Royal Highness, Deputy Colonel-in-Chief The Royal Anglian Regiment, was represented by Major General Sir David Thorne at the Thanksgiving Service for General Sir Timothy Creasey which was held in St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds, this afternoon.

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November 6: The Duke of Kent returned to RAF Northolt this evening having undertaken engagements in Northern Ireland.

His Royal Highness, who travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight, was attended by Captain Michael Campbell-Lamerton.

The Duchess of Kent this morning opened the Hawksworth Wood YMCA Family Centre and later opened the Blood Transfusion Centre at Sarsfield Hospital, Leeds.

Her Royal Highness, who travelled in an aircraft of 32 Squadron Royal Air Force, was attended by Mrs Alan Henderson.

Her Majesty was present this evening at a performance in the British Opera House at the Royal College of Music.

Ruth, Lady Fermoy and Sir Alastair Aird were in attendance.

Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Anglian Regiment, was represented by Sir Martin Gilliat at the Memorial Service for General Sir Timothy Creasey which was held in St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds, this afternoon.

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Her Majesty was present this evening at a performance in the British Opera House at the Royal College of Music.

Ruth, Lady Fermoy and Sir Alastair Aird were in attendance.

Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Anglian Regiment, was represented by Sir Martin Gilliat at the Memorial Service for General Sir Timothy Creasey which was held in St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds, this afternoon.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness were received by His Excellency Mr Shridath Ramphal (Commonwealth Secretary-General) and His Excellency the High Commissioner for Swaziland (Doyen of the Diplomatic Corps and Senior High Commissioner).

The Marchioness of

### Forthcoming marriages

Mr S.D. Bainbridge and Miss J.M. Buckingham. The engagement is announced between Stephen Bainbridge, BDS, son of Mr and Mrs A.A. Bainbridge, of Slad, Gloucestershire, and Julie, daughter of Mr and Mrs M.P. Buckingham, of Kidlington, Oxford.

Mr R.J. Barker and Miss C.J. York. The engagement is announced between Robert, son of Mrs S. Barker and the late Mr R.J. Barker, of Haywards Heath, and Caroline, daughter of Mr and Mrs P. York, of Tonbridge.

Mr S.R.C. Blackway and Mrs A.E. Edwell. The engagement is announced between Simon Richard Collins, son of Mr S.R. Blackway, of Compton, Cheshire, and Mrs K.G. Pearson, of Freshwater, Isle of Wight, and Allison Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs E. Carey, of Johannesburg.

Mr E.J. Corbett and Miss R.R. Hesp. The engagement is announced between Barry John, son of the late Mr John T. Corbett and of Mrs J.A. Baxter, of Pewsey, Wiltshire, and Rachel Rayner, only daughter of Mr and Mrs S.R. Hesp, of Mellor, Lancashire.

Mr M.E.K. Edgley and Miss C.H. Tetley. The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Mr and Mrs N.J. Edgley, of Eagon Hastings, Oxfordshire, and Caroline, daughter of Mr R.G. Tetley, of Chesham, Oxfordshire, and of Mrs M.J.J. Tetley, of Seewick, Buckinghamshire.

Dr M.J. Glynn and Dr E.C. Moskovic. The engagement is announced between Michael, younger son of Mr and Mrs Harry Glynn, of Chesham, Surrey, and Eleanor, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Meir Moskovic, of Wembley Park, Middlesex.

Mr T.J. Holland and Miss E.J.S. Cobbold. The engagement is announced between Thomas, son of the late Anthony Holland, MC, and of Mrs Anthony Holland, of Lulling, Balcombe, Sussex, and Elizabeth, second daughter of the late Alistair Cobbold and of Mrs Alistair Cobbold.

Mr C.M. Horton and Miss C.H. Macfarlane. The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Mr and Mrs C.P. Horton, of Studham, Dunstable, Bedfordshire, and Caroline, daughter of Mr and Mrs W.T. Macfarlane, CB, and of Dr H.D. Macfarlane, of Farnham, Surrey.

Mr J.B.G. Maitland and Miss E.C. Rihan. The engagement is announced between John Benjamin Gladwin, son of the late Mr J.G. Maitland and Mrs A.M. Maitland, of Henham, Essex, and Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs R.S. Rihan, of Sutton Coldfield.

Mr D.G.L. Prior and Miss C.H. Holmes. The engagement is announced between David, eldest son of Mr James Prior, MP, and Mrs Prior, of The Old Hall, Brampton, Suffolk, and Caroline Henrietta, younger daughter of Mr Peter Holmes, of The Old Rectory, Shotesham All Saints, Norfolk, and the late Mrs Diana Holmes.



Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother visiting the field of remembrance at St Margaret's, Westminster, yesterday.

### Sale room

## Painting's origins inspire bidders

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

A painting which carried an estimate of \$6,000-\$8,000 was sold for \$231,000 (£154,000) at Sotheby's in New York on Wednesday. A long-running saga of art detection finished only two days before the sale.

The sixteenth-century panel painting of "The Adoration of the Magi" came in to Sotheby's from a deceased estate with an attribution to Marya de Vos, a Flemish Maennier.

Sotheby's thought it was Italian and found the opinions of scholars they consulted homing in on Giorgio Vasari.

Three weeks ago, Edward

Fillsbury, director of the Fort Worth Museum and the man who turned down the directorship of the London National Gallery this summer, told them it was genuine. A sale room notice quoting Fillsbury's opinion was displayed beside the picture.

Finally two days ago Sotheby's discovered that the composition was identical to a large altarpiece by Vasari in Santa Croce in Florence. It became clear that they had a small preparatory work or modello on their hands. It was finally purchased by a New York dealer.

When independent television started in 1955 Thomas was managing director of ABC, one of the original "big four" companies. From the outset, he had faith in the one-way play specially written for television, and among ABC's early achievements was *Armchair Theatre*. Broadcast live on Sunday evenings, it gave a platform to young playwrights like Alan Owen, John Mortimer and Cive Exton.

When some of the offerings were criticized for being too gloomy, Thomas cast around for lighter fare, taking as his

## OBITUARY

### MR HOWARD THOMAS

#### Creative impresario in British broadcasting

Mr Howard Thomas, CBE, creator of *The Brains Trust*, and a leading figure in the development of independent television, died yesterday at the age of 77.

He was born at Cwm, Monmouthshire, on March 5, 1909, but during his childhood the family moved to Manchester.

He began his career as a journalist and advertising copywriter, and in 1938 he started the commercial radio department of the London Press Exchange. At the same time he was writing scripts for radio and, during the early part of the Second World War, he joined the BBC.

In three years he produced and directed some 500 programmes and brought to the microphone the "Forces' Sweetheart", Vera Lynn, in her series *Sincerely Yours*. Even more famous was *The Brains Trust*, in which a panel of experts answered questions sent in by listeners.

From a tentative start, it became one of the most popular wartime shows on the wireless, feeding a public appetite for information and education at a time of national crisis. It received 3,000 postcards a week, drew audiences of up to 11 million people and turned its three regular "brains" into national celebrities.

They were the scientist, Julian Huxley, the philosopher C. E. M. Joad and a retired naval officer, Commander A. R. Campbell. Recruited by Thomas, they were a nicely contrasted team, who took questions from "what is civilisation?" to "how does a fly land on a ceiling?" equally in their stride.

Thomas left the BBC in 1944 because, as he explained in *With an Independent Air*, originality seemed to be valued more outside it. The corporation resented by removing his credit from all announcements of *Brains Trust* programmes both on the air and in *Radio Times*.

He moved into the film industry as producer-in-chief for Associated British Pathé. There he looked after the *Pathé Gazette* newsreel and produced many documentaries, including a record of the 1953 Coronation called *Elizabeth is Queen*.

When independent television started in 1955 Thomas was managing director of ABC, one of the original "big four" companies. From the outset, he had faith in the one-way play specially written for television, and among ABC's early achievements was *Armchair Theatre*. Broadcast live on Sunday evenings, it gave a platform to young playwrights like Alan Owen, John Mortimer and Cive Exton.

When some of the offerings were criticized for being too gloomy, Thomas cast around for lighter fare, taking as his

model sophisticated Hollywood comedies like *The Thin Man*. Sydney Newman, producer of *Armchair Theatre*, came up with an idea which eventually became *The Avengers*.

A pastiche spy series which starred Patrick Macnee as a dandified special agent with female support supplied by Honor Blackman and, later, Diana Rigg. *The Avengers* had a huge following in Britain and earned more than \$10 million in sales overseas. Amazingly, ATV had refused to renew the first series.

Under the re-allocation of the independent television franchises in 1967 ABC was merged with Associated Rediffusion. Thomas became managing director of the new company, Thames, which was responsible for weekday programmes in the London area.

He was keen both to improve independent television's coverage of news and current affairs and to break out of what he called the "scheduled straitjacket". On one occasion he shook up the Thames schedules by screening two *Two Week* specials in one evening, but not all the ITV companies agreed with his decision and refused to take both programmes.

"ITV has been too rigid", Thomas afterwards declared. "There has not been enough flexibility in the schedules to allow news programmes to be introduced at the last moment".

He was one of those tipped to succeed Sir Hugh Greene as director-general of the BBC, but he stayed with Thames, becoming chairman in 1974 and retiring in 1979. During his tenure, Thames launched prestige documentaries like *The World At War*, as well as the popular drama series, *Kumple of the Bailey and The Sweeney*.

From 1974 to 1976 he was chairman of Independent Television News. He was a governor of the British Film Institute and a vice-president of the Royal Television Society.

He was the author of several books, including *The Brighter Blackout Book* (1939), *How to Write for Broadcasting* (1940), *Britain's Brains Trust* (1944) and a disappointingly anonymous volume, *The Truth About Television* (1962). His memoirs, *With an Independent Air*, appeared in 1977.

Thomas was an impresario of rare intuition, and one of the most talented exponents of the British system of broadcasting, whether at the BBC or with ITV. For him, the most gratifying aspect of the success of *The Avengers* in the United States was that it was produced to British standards and not dictated by American requirements.

He married, in 1934, Hilda Fog, who survives him with their two daughters.

### MR LARRY BLONSTEIN

Mr Larry Blonstein, who died in Paris on October 31, aged 59, was a pioneer in British space technology, and was responsible for the success of the first all-British satellite.

Born on May 7, 1927, he served from 1947 to 1949 in the army, where he did a good deal of work on impact characteristics in colliding vehicles. Afterwards he put this experience to good use as a crash investigator on the London Underground.

He then went to University College, London, where he graduated in mechanical engineering. In 1954 he joined English Electric Aviation where he worked on wind tunnels and shock tubes.

In 1957 he became project manager of UK3, the first British satellite. He had considerable influence on the way it was designed, as well as being responsible for the delivery of the system on time. UK3 went into space on an American Scout launcher in 1967.

By this time he had joined Plessey, where he gained wide experience as a marketing and manufacturing manager.

But he was back to space activities in 1973, working for the next six years on communications studies with Eurospace, in Paris.

He brought this vast experience to British Aerospace in 1979, as sales manager for the

space and communications division, and spent the next seven years expounding the cause of communicating via space.

He was both proselytiser and engineer, and he conceived and wrote the script for the Faraday lecture series, *Let's Build a Satellite*. This remarkable performance, into which he incorporated audio-visual techniques, raised the status of a specialist event to an almost mass audience affair. British Aerospace presented it to 70,000 people throughout the country in 1983-84.

Blonstein was a man of restless, volcanic mind. He lived at a terrific pace, and even in his leisure time he would not relax. Under the pseudonym Felix Semper he produced a considerable amount of journalism, including articles for *The Observer*, and some highly provocative items on women's affairs for *SHE*.

He also published, under his own name, a book on picture framing, and had completed a novel, unpublished, about living in space. He had a stroke a year ago, and had been advised to let up. But he was temperamentally incapable of doing so.

He leaves his widow, the artist Lys Debray, and two children of a previous marriage.

### HIS HON JUDGE RIGBY

His Honour Judge Rigby, DFC and bar, circuit judge since 1980, died on October 30. He was 69.

Herbert Cecil Rigby was born on April 2, 1917. He was educated at Sandbach School, Ellesmere College and Liverpool University, before being articled to his uncle's firm of solicitors at Winsford, Cheshire.

In 1937 he was commissioned in the 7th Cheshire Regiment (TA). At the outbreak of war he immediately enlisted and served in the BEF in 1939. The following year he was evacuated from Dunkirk.

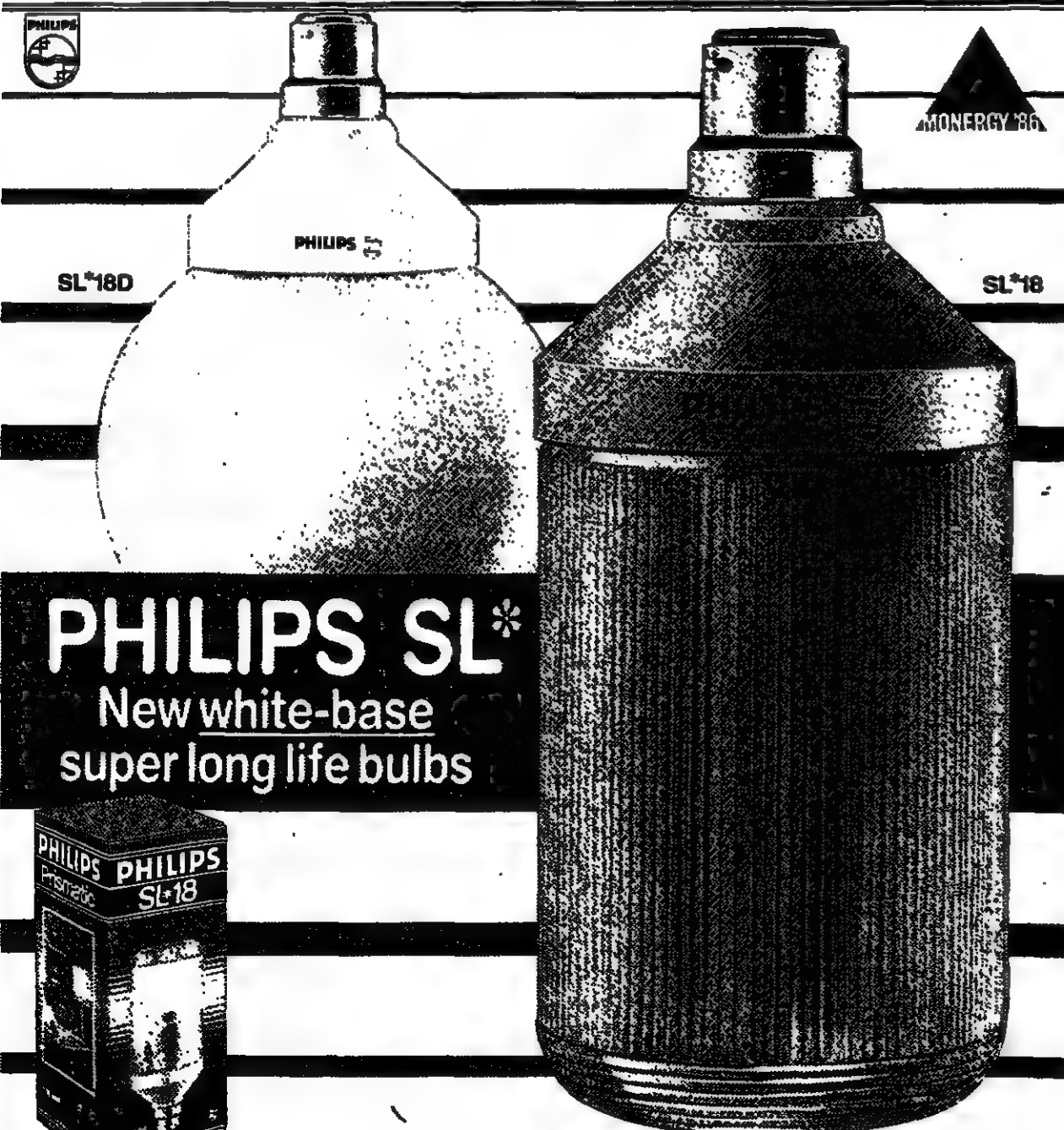
Later he transferred to the RAF and won his wings with 11 Group, Hornchurch (Spitfires) in 1942. In that year he took part in the North Africa landings. From 1944 to 1945

he commanded 222 Squadron, one of the first into France with the invasion forces in 1944.

He was admitted solicitor in 1947, this time working as a partner in his father's firm at Sandbach. In 1972 he was one of the first solicitors to be appointed recorder of the Crown Court of the Wales and Chester Circuit.

Rigby was an independent-minded man who gave many years' service to the community, including 14 years on Cheshire County Council.

He married, first, in 1939, Ethel Muriel Horwood, with whom he had two daughters. They were divorced after the war. He married, second, in 1949, Florence Rita Scott, with whom he had a son. He is survived by them all.



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Executive Editor  
Kenneth Fleet

**STOCK MARKET**  
FT 30 Share  
1303.9 (+7.8)  
FT-SE 100  
1648.5 (+4.1)  
Bargains  
32328 (29950)  
USM (Datastream)  
127.97 (+0.63)  
**THE POUND**  
US Dollar  
1.4340 (+0.0110)  
W German mark  
2.9526 (+0.0148)  
Trade-weighted  
69.5 (+0.4)

# Lawson approval

The stock market gave a cautious vote of approval last night to the package in Mr Nigel Lawson's autumn statement. The Chancellor promised an extra £4.75 billion of spending across the board and also forecast that inflation would be lower than analysts had been expecting.

Government stocks ended the day in a gloomy mood with market-makers interpreting the Chancellor's statement as indicating that interest rates were likely to remain high for some time. Analysts suggested the Chancellor was injecting something like £10 billion into the economy.

But oils recovered. Shell put on 5p to 946p, just 7p down on the day, while BP rallied 5p to 629p, a drop of 16p in all.

Elsewhere, leading stocks showed more falls than rises. However, any positive reaction to the Chancellor's measures was tempered by news from Wall Street of a downgrading of profits by IBM, the computer giant.

The pound firmed at the prospect of continuing high interest rates and the trade-weighted index closed up 0.4 at 69.5 on the day.

Market report, page 23

# Profits jump

Electronics continues to make steady progress. Pretax profits rose 13 per cent to £18.1 million for the six months to September 30 on turnover up 28 per cent to £114.6 million. The dividend was increased 0.3p to 2.2p.

Temple, page 24

# £4.4m Trend

M K Electric Group has paid £4.4 million for 77.6 per cent of Trend Control Systems, a manufacturer of building control systems. The outstanding shares, which are being retained by directors and some employees, will be acquired by MK over four years from June 1989.

# Yamaichi joins

Yamaichi International Europe, the London arm of one of the big four Japanese securities houses, has become a full member of the London Stock Exchange. It wants to operate an equity service in London for Japanese institutions.

# Avis seesaw

The shares of Avis Europe, which started trading on the stock market yesterday, closed at 239p, having opened at 226p. The offer for sale was priced at 250p, but one-third of the shares were left with the underwriters.

# Taiwan tax cut

Taiwan has cut tariffs on 1,843 items to try to open up the Taiwanese market.

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London closing prices Page 27

# MARKET SUMMARY

## STOCK MARKETS

New York	1678.66 (-20.38)
Dow Jones	1678.66 (-20.38)
Tokyo	16758.35 (+44.64)
Nikkei Dow	2230.65 (+26.94)
Hong Kong	250.3 (+2.6)
Amsterdam Gen	1383.3 (+3.2)
Sydney: AO	2021.9 (+22.7)
Frankfurt	3934.23 (+12.41)
Commerzbank	379.4 (+3.1)
Brussels	545.90 (+2.20)
General	545.90 (+2.20)
Paris: CAC	545.90 (+2.20)
Zurich	545.90 (+2.20)
SKA General	545.90 (+2.20)

## INTEREST RATES

London:	
Bank Base:	11%
3-month interbank:	11.10%*
3-month eligible bills:	10.12-10.14%
buying rate	
US:	
Prime Rate:	7.75%
Federal Funds:	5.25-5.24%
3-month Treasury Bills:	5.25-5.24%
30-year bonds:	9.5%-9.55%

## CURRENCIES

London:		New York:	
\$1	1.4340	\$1	1.4320
DM	2.9526	DM	2.9526
SwF	2.4522	SwF	2.4522
FF	5.220	FF	5.220
Yen	234.02	Yen	234.02
Index:	69.5	Index:	69.5
ECU	10.7125	ECU	10.7125

# McCorquodale hits back after Opax offer

Norton Opax, the printing and publishing company, yesterday raised its terms yet again for fellow printer McCorquodale, with a final £165 million offer. Opax announced that it had secured the 19.1 per cent stake held by Mr Robert Maxwell, publisher of the *Daily Mirror*, and this took its level of acceptance to 51.1 per cent.

The management buyout team at McCorquodale, headed by chief executive Mr John Holloran, immediately struck back with a higher cash offer of 310p per share valuing the company at £158.8 million. The buyout team hopes sufficient shareholders will withdraw their acceptances so that the Opax bid cannot go unconditional.

Opax's new terms, which will not be increased, are seven new shares for three McCorquodale shares valuing McCorquodale shares at 322p each. The cash alternative has been raised by 43.3p to 303.3p. Opax shares yesterday eased 10p to close at 138p.

The buyout team has not declared its new bid final which leaves it scope to raise its terms.

If Opax succeeded, Mr Maxwell would emerge as a 16.1 per cent shareholder in the enlarged group. He said yesterday that he had accepted the higher share offer to allow the general body of shareholders to enjoy it and to participate in the long term development of the merged businesses.

There was speculation last night that his ultimate goal was to bid for the enlarged company.

City analysts were divided in their opinions. Some suggested Opax had done enough to win and was not overstretching itself. Others said the level of dilution was too much and those taking Opax paper would end up "in great difficulty".

The new shares to be issued by Opax would amount to 77 per cent of the enlarged share capital. They have been underwritten at 130p.

Mr Holloran said that cash would be the real decider in the bid, adding that 35 per cent of McCorquodale had been bought through the market for cash by Opax and Mr Maxwell. In addition, withdrawals of nearly 9 per cent from the previous Opax offer indicated those shareholders must have accepted the cash and wanted to switch to the higher buyout offer.

He said it indicated that only 7 per cent of McCorquodale shareholders had been persuaded to accept Opax paper.

Mr Clive Chalk, a director of Samuel Montagu, which is advising Opax, said he was surprised at the speed of the decision by the independent McCorquodale directors to recommend the raised buyout terms. Opax had been seeking a meeting with the directors.

He pointed to the capital gains tax problems of those accepting cash. Mr Holloran said the loan note alternative was being offered as a way round CGT problems.

# Benson offers M & G shares at 25p below market price

Kleinwort Benson formally announced yesterday the terms for the sale of most of its 42 per cent stake in the M & G investment management group.

It is offering shares in M & G at 270p each - about 25p below the price in the market.

The sale of 28 million M & G shares will produce a £64 million profit for Kleinwort, although tax on the profits, according to a Kleinwort director, is likely to be quite substantial.

Mr David Hopkinson, the M & G deputy chairman and managing director, described the shares as "a long-term growth investment which you should buy and look away".

The sale of the shares, which represents 37.4 per cent of the company, compares with £10.1 million the year before and £7 million in 1984.

M&G estimates that earnings per share have increased by 65 per cent over the past year. It intends paying a final dividend of 3.25p net, against 3p forecast at the announcement of its half-year figures.

Kleinwort will not accept applications for "an unduly large proportion" of the shares on offer.

This is intended to prevent a single applicant purchasing a large proportion of the issue - even if the issue is under-subscribed. It would not prevent applicants from obtaining stakes of about 5 per cent of M & G.

Kleinwort shareholders will be given priority in applications for shares.

# Regalian cash call

Regalian Properties, which specialises in turning run-down council estates into marketable private homes, is coming to the market for £35 million in a three for seven rights issue at 32.5p per share. There will also be a one-for-one capitalisation issue.

This coincides with the company's half-year results to September 30, 1986, which show pretax profits at £4.11 million, a 120 per cent increase on the previous half-year and up £440,000 on the year to March 31, 1986.

The company says that the sharp rise will not necessarily be repeated in the second half. Earnings per share have risen 70 per cent to 10.83p and the dividend has been increased by 100 per cent.

City sentiment has been so strong that the rights issue has been underwritten at only a 5 per cent discount instead of the 15 per cent which might have been expected for a company of its size.

Pretax profits are expected to rise by about 25 per cent a year over the next four years.

# Berkeley pays £18.4m for John Govett

Berkeley Technology, the specialist investment company which offers development funds to growing technology companies, is to acquire John Govett & Co, the fund manager, for £18.4 million.

The Govett group is a long established British investment management group with more than £1.3 billion under management, including three investment trusts totalling £820 million. It also manages unit trusts of £100 million and pension funds of £270 million.

About 57 per cent of Govett is owned by the three investment trusts it manages, with the balance owned by the directors, staff and the Govett pension fund.

Berkeley Technology will continue to specialise in technology investment. And while the combined group will change its name to Berkeley Govett & Company Limited, Govett will operate under its own name and existing management.

The consideration for the purchase will comprise a mixture of cash (£5.7 million), unsecured loan notes (£3.5 million) and 4.2 million Berkeley ordinary shares at 220p a share (£9.2 million).

# Five Oaks profits rise

Five Oaks Investments' pretax profits for the year ending June 30 were up 40 per cent to £650,514. Net asset value a share, taking this year's £7 million rights issue into account, was 42.74p - a 36 per cent increase. Earnings per share were 9.18p.

More than 60 per cent (by sale value) of the company's projects are in the City of London. It has sold its 16,500 sq ft City office project at Laurence Pountney Hill - and is set to make about £1.5 million from the deal.

# European bankers wary of new technology, report says

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

British banks operate one of the least efficient payments systems in Europe and share many of the shortcomings of Continental banks, such as an inadequate use of market research and a haphazard approach to new technology.

A survey of European bankers' attitudes, published yesterday by Retail Banker International, presents a picture of rapid change in retail banking and numerous dangers for existing banking systems for the next 15 years.

The best payments services are found in northern European countries, according to Mr Roa Nevas, the author of the report. These banks operate a giro-based system of direct debits and automatic transfers, while other European countries rely on paper transactions, such as cheques, which are costly to service.

But the success of the giro system means these banks are less inclined to invest in new technology for more advanced banking services.

By the year 2000, the position will be reversed, with Britain, France, Spain and Belgium likely to have the most efficient electronic payments systems. There is little prospect of a single European payments system being developed.

Britain and France have more cash dispensers per head of population than any other European country, with more than 160 for every million inhabitants. Both are moving towards electronic funds transfer at point of sale, where shop purchases are debited directly to a customers account, more rapidly than most other European countries.

In many countries competition from outside institutions, such as US banks, is not taken seriously. But financial services offered by domestic



John Holloran of McCorquodale with symbol of defiance of the buyout group. The rest is up to the shareholders

# Virgin flotation set to raise £255m

By John Bell, City Editor

Mr Richard Branson, aged 36, the enterprising entrepreneur, is bringing his Virgin Group to market today with an expected price tag of about £255 million.

The flotation will take the form of an offer for sale by tender with a minimum subscription price in the region of 120p a share, according to market sources.

At the minimum price, Virgin would be capitalised at about £220 million, but the price is believed to have been modestly pitched to encourage the widest possible support.

Virgin, which started life in 1970 as a mail order company selling popular records, has grown rapidly, and now accounts for an estimated 10 per cent of the British recorded music market. Last year it made profits of £19.1 million.

It operates in 17 countries, employing 1,600 people, with half its sales originating overseas. The original group, which was 70 per cent owned by Mr Branson, was reorganised prior to the flotation.

The Virgin airline and other minor activities have been excluded so that the group could be launched as a pure entertainment concern.

Existing shareholders, including Mr Branson, will be raising a substantial sum from the sale of their shares. The funds will be used to recapitalize the airline and other interests, to be called the Voyager Group.

Ahead of today's prospectus details, analysts were expecting Virgin to make around £25 million in the present year and possibly £30 million in the following 12 months.

The retail division, which last year reported sales of £56 million, should show a return to more normal margins and profits now that the capital spending programme is largely completed. The film, video and broadcasting divisions are also expected to show some growth this time.

On a striking price of 150p a share, valuing the company at £255 million, the shares would be selling at around 17 times expected earnings for the present year, falling to just over 14 times in the next financial period.

Initial response to the group's TV and press advertising campaign has been good and the issue looks certain to attract heavy support.

# Oil use 'to rise 2%'

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Opec's attempts to force oil prices upwards at its meeting next month may benefit from the latest statistics released by the International Energy Agency (IEA). These show that Western industrialized countries will use 2 per cent more oil next year.

In addition, consumption for the rest of this year is expected to increase by 2.5 per cent.

The overall oil use of the 24 member countries of the IEA is expected to rise by 3 per cent next year.

The report shows that for the third quarter of this year oil stocks in the Western world have been increasing, with an average of 3.5 million barrels a day going into stocks.

Since 1973 the IEA has attempted to co-ordinate the response of the industrialized world to Opec's attempts to control the oil market.

Opec hopes it can send the oil price up to \$18 a barrel by the end of this year.

# Bonds boost

The coupon rate of 10-year Japanese government bonds for issue this month has been raised to 5.4 per cent from 5.1 per cent, but the issue price is raised to Y99 from Y97. The move is to stimulate sagging bond prices.

# Key Wico staff defect to Swiss Bank Corp

By Alexandra Jackson

Swiss Bank Corporation International put itself firmly on the Far Eastern securities map yesterday with the recruitment of a significant number of senior personnel from Wl Carr (Overseas), a subsidiary of Exco International.

Yesterday, at 6 o'clock Hong Kong time, the resignations of at least a dozen key Wico personnel were proffered in Hong Kong and Tokyo. A small sales team in New York is also thought to be included. It is not clear yet whether anyone in the London office has defected.

Rumours circulating yesterday suggested the defections were more comprehensive. They indicated that a considerable number of back-up staff were involved from Wico offices in the Far East, London, New York and Zurich. If this were the case, this would imply a total of more than 100 people.

Yesterday, Mr Richard Davey, finance director of Exco, said: "This is obviously a disturbing situation and we are doing our best to patch up the diminished business."

However, Exco has had a deliberate policy of keeping its exposure to stockbroking down to a sensible level.

"This has proved to be sensible in the light of the musical chairs being played in the City at the moment. In 1985, Wico contributed 5 per cent of group profits and we expect it to contribute about the same percentage this year. We would not have made an announcement on this matter to the Stock Exchange if there had not been a movement in our share price this morning."

Mr Andrew Large, chief executive of Swiss Bank Corporation International, said: "We have recently been awarded branch status in Tokyo and have a requirement for experienced people. We were approached by some employees of Wico who were interested in joining us. We are very excited about the opportunities available in the Japanese markets. I have no comment to make about the amounts of money involved but we are obviously operating in a competitive market-place."

Exco International recently announced plans to invest £30 million in its Far Eastern stockbroking operation. Part of this was expected to cover the £9.1 million exceptional loss provided at the interim stage to meet settlements made by Wico on behalf of a Japanese client.

In recent months, there has been talk of dissatisfaction at Wico and Exco has already lost people.

Yesterday the share price of Exco International fell 12p to 230p.

# Ford bid rejected as Fiat moves for Alfa

Rome (AP-Dow Jones) - Finmeccanica, the Italian state-controlled holding company, has accepted a takeover bid made by Fiat for Alfa Romeo rejecting a rival bid by Ford.

The Finmeccanica board took its decision at a two-hour meeting yesterday. Formal approval was sought from the board of Istituto per la Ricostruzione Industriale (IRI), the state holding company which is Finmeccanica's lead shareholder.

Final approval must be given by the Italian Government.

ment. A ministerial committee is expected to discuss the Fiat-Alfa case today.

Fiat made a bid of about 8,000 billion lire (£3.9 billion) to take over and rescue Alfa Romeo.

The bid countered a previous offer by Ford Motor for the acquisition of the second-largest Italian car maker in an effort to foil entry of a dangerous competitor on the Italian car market.

Fiat, which is controlled by the Agnelli family, bid for at least 51 per cent of Alfa Romeo Motoring, page 28

# You and your pension

In tomorrow's 10-page Family Money, *The Times* assesses the implications of Mr Roy Hattersley's plans for pension funds and their impact on the 11 million members of occupational schemes.

Family Money comes to grips also with the revolution in the mortgage market and explains how your friendly local building society might sell your debt to someone unknown to you.

The latest trust performance figures are examined and Family Money signals the dangers of not having personal belongings properly insured during that winter weekend break away from home.

Plus the emerging boom in share shops and why platinum has taken over gold's role as the precious investment metal.

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## Bumpy flight to freer skies

The recent 10 per cent price increase on internal air fares in the United States and Texas Air's takeover of Peoples Express could prove, say some, to be the final nail in the coffin of deregulation of US air travel.

The eight-year process of injecting competition into the airline business is receiving greater attention in Europe as politicians realize the vote-catching attraction of a free-for-all in the skies.

But after spawning dozens of new entrants in the airline business, the US industry is likely to comprise only six carriers and about 20 regional minnows.

In Europe, British Airways, in its pre-privatisation phase, is one of the leaders in the drive towards deregulating the European system.

Lord King of Warrnaby, the chairman, is concerned that with elections in the offing the airlines should try to maintain control over their destinies and negotiate free access to routes and introduce greater competition in the setting of fares, rather than waiting passively for the politicians to deregulate their environment in the US fashion.

### No cheap fares

European air travellers should indeed be worried by the way in which deregulation in the US has led to cheap airlines and a dearth of cheap fares on the lesser-used routes.

The takeover by Northwest Airlines of Republic, for example, resulted in the airline's home base of Minneapolis being dominated by almost one carrier, dubbed America's Aeroflot. European analysts are now asking whether the same could happen at Manchester, Düsseldorf or Amsterdam.

In the US, however, government officials remain ecstatic about the impact of deregulation on a previously entrenched and conservative industry.

Mr Vance Fort, deputy assistant secretary for policy and international affairs at the Department of Transportation, said: "Deregulation has been an unqualified success."

"The number of airlines has gone up from 41 to 175. Some of the carriers are doing very well, and while there are some provably exceptions, the process has made possible a new business opportunity."

Politicians like Mr Fort rely heavily for their argument on airlines such as USAir and Piedmont, locked in competition mostly in the eastern states, but making money as a result of their newfound ability to be flexible and more alert and accountable to their customers.

### USAir success

USAir has become one of the most financially strong. It has adopted a policy of slow and controlled expansion and made made \$117 million (£82 million) net profit last year.

Mr Fort estimates that deregulation has saved the American flying public up to \$10 billion a year and that between 1981 and 1985 the average fare a mile dropped by 30 per cent. A total 380 million passengers were carried by US airlines last year, up by 40 million on the previous year, and the 1986 figure is expected to be close to 400 million.

In September, the market value of 47 publicly quoted US airlines rose to \$21.7 billion, up by \$545 million on the previous month, and a 26 per cent increase on a year earlier. Since January the value of all airline stock has risen by 55 per cent or \$7.7 billion.

Safety has also improved under deregulation. But despite the gains, the probability of new arrivals on the American airline scene looks doubtful.

### Protectionism

Equally, there appears to be little opportunity in the short term for foreign carriers to enter the protected US domestic system other than by arrangements such as BA has with USAir. Mr Fort maintains the US has done more than any other country to open up its markets to foreign competition. In banning foreign airlines from internal routes, it was simply following international agreed practice.

There is also scepticism in the US industry about how fast and how widespread deregulation might occur in Europe. Mr Randy Mahin, executive vice-president, marketing, of USAir, says: "The US worships at the shrine of competition; we never had a debate about deregulation, so we just went straight to the solution."

He adds: "Remember that the market that has responded most to deregulation in the US is the 'visiting friends or relatives' sector, which accounts for more than 20 per cent of all air travel, while package tourists account for only 7 per cent. In Europe, people living in Manchester are most unlikely to have relatives in Majorca."

Edward Townsend  
Industrial Correspondent

# Shares lose some support after Lawson statement

By Carol Leonard

The Chancellor's autumn statement knocked some of the wind out of the equity market but it failed to damage its underlying firmness.

Initially the FT-SE 100 shareindex went better on the speech, notching up a 13.7 points rise by 4pm, but second thoughts about increased public spending lowered its gains to just 4.1 points at 1,648.5 by the close.

The FT 30 share index closed at 1,303.9, up 7.8.

Gifts began the day on a slightly improved note but they went £½ worse at the long.

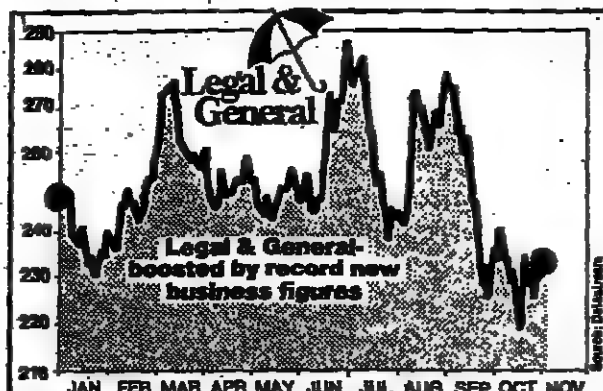
● Savory Mills, the broker, has upgraded its profit forecast for 1986, the first time since 1982. It expects at least £5 million profit from the year, just ended and £7 million in 1987. Its shares firmed up to 154p, a two-day rise of 16p.

end half an hour before the speech, and they stayed there.

Among leading equities Hanson was the most heavily traded stock, with a volume of 33 million shares. Most of the business is coming from across the Atlantic, where the company introduced an ADR facility on Monday.

Traders in London think that Hanson is gearing up for an acquisition in the United States within the next week and possibly one in Britain as well. Its shares gained 5p to 211p.

ICI went up 5p to 1089p and Becton a penny to 441p, while British Telecom eased 5p to 184p.



Bid speculation refuses to die around Pilkington, Britain's biggest glass manufacturer. The latest word is that a stake of about 5 per cent will be declared today. Its shares eased 8p to 545p on profit-taking.

Talk that the Prudential Insurance Company of America, the biggest insurance company in the world, may be casting a predatory eye over our own Prudential Corporation, sent shivers through the life insurance sector.

● Bellair Cosmetics, which is controlled by Mr Mehmet Tahir, brother-in-law of Polly Peck's chief, Mr Asil Nadir, has clinched a deal to market L'Oréal hair products and cosmetics in Turkey, via its subsidiary Hair Tone, which is 75 per cent owned by Bellair and 25 per cent by Polly Peck. Bellair, suspended in 1984, is having a £2.23 million rights issue, its second in two years. Mr Tahir's holding has been reduced from 72 per cent to 51 per cent and the shares in issue have increased from 2.29 million to 45.6 million. Mr Charles Kepp, Bellair's chairman, hopes to restore the quote next year.

The British company, which is a completely separate entity from the American company, is ranked ninth in the world league table of insurance companies, and it is well within the financial grasp

holding in the group to more than 23 per cent. Our report yesterday that Harris Queensway had increased its stake in GUS was back to front. We apologize for this error.

GUS ordinary shares slid a further 25p to 1463p while the A shares gained 17p to 1,057p. Speculators who hope for a bid from GUS for Harris should remember an agreement signed by GUS in July that it will not increase its stake above 29.9 per cent for the next ten years without the express permission of the Harris board.

### Electronic component

● Eversham, the industrial automation stock, has its low of 250p, rising 29p to 279p in the past two days. Several stockbrokers have been re-working their views and are now upgrading their profit forecasts, from about £11 million to more than £12 million. They say the stock is cheap.

Manufacturers did well with the arrival of the old Scrimgeour electronic team at Smith New Court, who were said to be strong buyers. Farwell gained 8p to 183p, Diploma 10p to 175p and Electromechanics 13p to 366p.

Lucas recovered 10p to 470p. Brokers say that the profits down-grading last week to below £90 million by Phillips & Drew was too low.

Most are sticking by their estimates of between £95 million and £100 million for the preliminary figures, out on Monday.

### ALPHA STOCKS

These prices are as at 6.45pm

1986 High Low	Company	Price	Yld	Change	1986 High Low	Company	Price	Yld	Change
383 283	Allied-Lyons	312 317	+5	13.6	4.5	144 1500	111/754	Imp Chem Ind	104
174 125	ASDA-MFI	106 108	-1	4.5	2.7	183 183	383 335	Jaguar	513
483 278	BTR	282 285	+3	9.8	3.9	20.5 2100	291 312	Ladbroke	372
482 281	BT	482 485	+3	36.8	2.6	245 278	240 223	Lloyds	228
572 448	Barclays	495 498	+3	36.1	3.8	7.0 1100	288 128	Legal & Gen	342
540 680	Baxi	738 745	+7	21.7	2.8	13.8 350	484 325	Lloyds	425
444 359	Bechtel	458 463	+5	17.1	4.0	8.5 8500	285 183	Lloyds	227
785 255	Blue Circle	650 655	+5	10.3	4.7	9.5 1200	231 193	Marks & Spencer	182
181 128	Cadbury Schweppes	182 185	+3	14.1	4.0	599 617	588 617	Melbourn	573
288 170	Bunn	280 287	-3	10.1	4.3	18.4 2400	535 426	Nat West	530
608 428	ICI Aerospace	470 475	-7	33.4	4.9	10.0 2400	778 408	P & O Dine	518
708 252	B. Petroleum	252 255	+3	48.8	7.1	7.5 3200	348 182	Plessey	182
282 177	B. Telecom	182 185	+3	16.1	5.1	10.0 1100	348 182	Plessey	182
158 98	British	158 165	+7	9.3	6.0	41 11,000	348 182	Plessey	182
354 258	Burton	260 262	-5	6.8	5.4	78.4 1700	348 182	Plessey	182
738 277	Cable & Wireless	318 320	+2	6.8	5.1	174 2200	348 182	Plessey	182
181 128	Cadbury Schweppes	182 185	+3	8.2	4.8	21.9 3000	348 182	Plessey	182
288 170	Bunn	280 287	+7	17.4	6.9	10.0 1100	348 182	Plessey	182
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158 98	British	158 165	+7	14.0	1.0	1200			







Journalist

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**British Gas**  
SHARE INFORMATION OFFICE



**The prices in this section refer to Wednesday's trading**

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## 29

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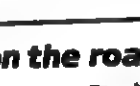
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## YOUR OWN BUSINESS

## Queueing to start up at the village

Shell UK's enterprise village at Sittingbourne in Kent celebrated its first anniversary this week with its general manager, Bob Crawford, camped out in the reception area because demand for space has been so great he has let his own office to a small business.

Designed for expanding small businesses and start-up ventures, the Broad Oak village is unable to keep up with requests for office and workshop accommodation.

Another seven units will have been built by the end of the year, bringing Shell UK's investment to about £250,000, but that will still leave six hopefuls on the waiting list. Even the

conference room has been converted to office space. The village is wholly managed by Shell UK and, leaving aside Mr Crawford's £7,000-a-year part-time salary, paid by head office, it is hoped the venture will break even this year.

He says: "We are not running it as a commercial enterprise but as part of Shell UK's commitment to help small businesses in the community."

The 25 existing units are offered on a four-year lease at about £2.50 a square metre a month for office space and up to £3 for workshops.

Over the last year, just two businesses have moved out because of limited success while a number have prospered

and are now contemplating expansion. The village was the first small business enterprise to be managed wholly by Shell UK. Its success prompted the opening in September of the far bigger Carrington Business Park near Manchester, also under the company's management.

Mr Crawford says: "We are happier when we are in sole charge because we can run it as we want to run it."

The businesses at Broad Oak have created about 70 jobs and include Carousell, carriers and freight trader; Scissor Hoist, which manufactures lifting gear; and Bioanalytical Research, a biochemical research company.

## Three women who went high-tech

By Sally Watts

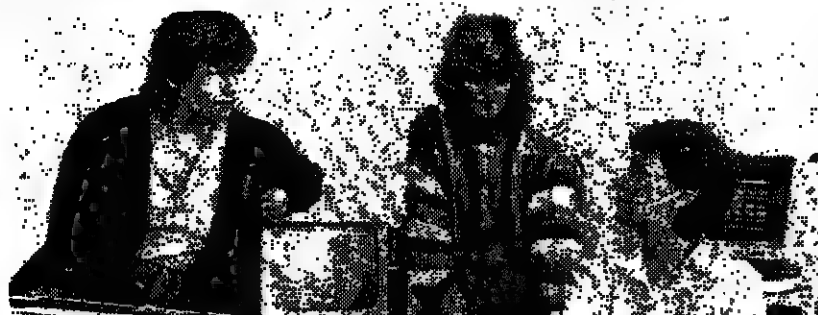
Firms with expensive computer systems that they have no idea how to operate are providing start-up business for a new Cardiff cooperative launched by three women who, a year ago, had little knowledge of the new technology.

But the three — Deirdre Holland, Helen Paterson and Carol Esposti — have since taken a nine-month course in computing and electronics mounted by South Glamorgan Women's Workshops (SGWW).

On completing it, they became SGWW's first trainees to start their own business. Having surmounted numerous setbacks and disappointments, they opened Microhelp in former British Steel premises on June 2. Their purpose is to help clients decide on the most appropriate computer system and to help set it up, prepare the database and train the staff to use the equipment.

Market research pointed to the need for such a service in South Glamorgan. Even so, the trio had not expected to discover so many costly systems lying idle because no one knew how to handle them.

Mrs Holland recalls: "We were aston-



A cooperative profiting from a market gap: Carol Esposti, left; Helen Paterson, and Deirdre Holland

ished. Many had never been used at all: created difficulties by raising questions about their husbands' financial resources — somewhat irrelevant as two of the women were single parents.

Eventually they found a manager — of Midland Bank's Docks branch — who was more interested in the plan than in their husbands' collateral, and allowed them a £3,000 overdraft.

There were also family responsibilities, as they had nine dependent children between them, two under school age. These two have free nursery places at SGWW, which also provided temporary business premises in the early days, plus guidance from a researcher, Sue Essex.

There was support, too, from South Wales Microsystems Centre, a local businessman, Ron Saunders, and the

local authority's economic unit, which made a £1,500 grant for equipment. The village had simply been installed and left. They had cost about £12,000. In one case, the person who had brought the system had gone and it was being used as a pot-pot holder.

The backbone of their business is the packages they can offer to meet clients' needs and training staff in using the equipment. The three have not advertised; commissions have come from word of mouth recommendations and a story in the *South Wales Echo*.

The three supply business services such as word processing, phone answering and accountancy skills. They also supply temps.

Despite having attended a business course for cooperatives, they found the start-up brought problems. One was that under the Enterprise Allowance Scheme, they each had to put up £1,000 to guarantee the business.

Another was preparing a business plan for the bank. A cooperative development agency helped — but several banks trialed with two computers, an IBM-PC-compatible machine and the Amstrad PCW, and hope soon to invest in a third.

To keep overheads manageable, they rent their premises on a monthly-renewal basis and have negotiated a monthly repayable system.

Deirdre Holland observes that several of the professionals giving advice had never run a business themselves. Contact: Microhelp Cardiff Ltd, Unit F27, Cardiff Workshops, Lewis Road, Eastmoor, Cardiff. Telephone: Cardiff (0222) 496142.

## MR FRIDAY



"How nice to see small businesses creating so much employment"

## BRIEFING

A dozen owner proprietors of tourism businesses will get the chance to join a business-development programme at Newcastle upon Tyne early next year at a subsidised cost of only £275. The three-month programme, including four residential courses lasting 15 days in all, is being run by the Hotel and Catering Training Board, together with the Manpower Services Commission and the English Tourist Board. It follows a successful launch for the scheme in York earlier this year.

Areas covered include staff management, finance and costing.

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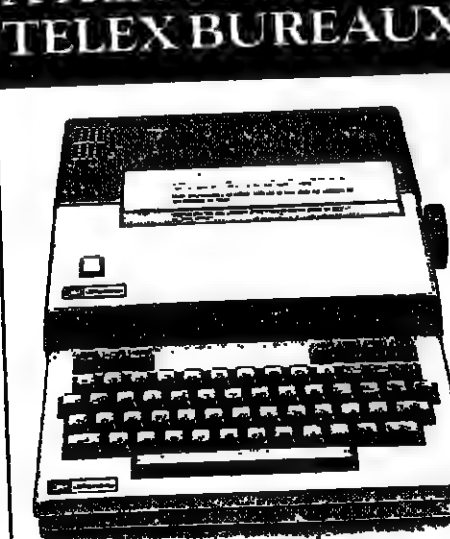
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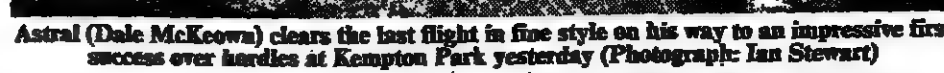






# Fudge Delight to make fitness tell against Hennessy entries

Carson should complete a double on Queen Helen in the Royal British Legion Stakes. Last time out my selection ran the race of her life at Newbury where she finished third to Jupiter Island and Verd-Antique in the St Simon Stakes.



Smith refused to be drawn into comparisons between Austral and Problem Child, but said: "We'll know soon enough. — I may even run Astal again at Plumpton." The favorite, a 10-year-old, chestnut, who won three point-to-points in Ireland and had some fair form in hunter chases last season, outclassed his three opponents in the Standard Life Stakes. He was, however, impossibly, he had established a 10-length lead before the home turn and at the time had doubled that advantage.

Josh Gifford, the trainer of Ballymynogue, said: "I was not at all surprised to see the double when Yeoman Broker fulfilled the promise he had shown last season with a 15-length success in the Vauxhall Novices' Hurdle.

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29	15.1	9	3.4
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W Horn	25	86	22.7	G Starkey	24	134	17.9
B Hammond	21	108	19.4 <td>R Carson</td> <td>42</td> <td>248</td> <td>18.9</td>	R Carson	42	248	18.9
J Dunlop	18	105	17.6	Pat Eldridge	21	140	15.0
B Hills	24	151	15.9	W R Striburn	18	194	22.9
				R Hills	8	84	10.7
				W Ryan	18	127	10.2

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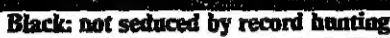
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## Hanley hospital bound with mixed feelings

A Great Britain junior men's team under the name of Uiscormac will take part in the Los Reyes tournament in Barcelona from January 3 to 6 next year (Sydney Friskin writes). They will play a few training matches also, against a Spanish XI at the same venue.

Selection for these events will be made after two training weekends, at Lilleshall from November 28 to 30 and at Crystal Palace from December 12 to 14. A total of 33 players have been invited from England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland for the first training weekend, which is the starting point of Britain's search for talent for the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul. The purpose at this stage is to excise the more established players.


**ENGLAND** Robert Soward, David Rees, N Thompson, D Garmann, P Galland, D Perkins, G Swayne, P Foran, S Flaherty, J Rogers, R Burt, M Wray, P Hall, J Harris, B Lazarus, A Blissett, M England, V Fry, D Heather, D Macneaney, C Hoggins, J Smith, J Williams, J Walters, A Nichol, N Cook, C McLeod, S Hamilton (Scotland), R Richardson, G Hamford, D Gordon (Northern Ireland).



Strangely, the loss of Hanley will be greeted with mixed feelings rather than total dejection.

# THE BREEDERS' CUP

John Oaksey reports from California on the \$10 million series and Richard Pitman describes the Breeders' Cup 'Chase.



- Foxford has a day with the North Shropshire.
- Olympics and professionals: Steve Hadley discusses the implications for show jumping.

# HORSE and HOUND

EVERY FRIDAY

**By Barry Pickthall**

Yachting, once the sole preserve of rich Corinthians, is poised for a fiery debate today on sponsorship and professionalism. Commercialism has been creeping up on the sport for several years but it is

Trevino is one of six golfing personalities on the double album along with Jacklin, Peter Alliss, Alex Hay, and the BBC pair Renton Laidlaw and John Fentton. The record was recorded at Woburn in June.



## TENNIS

## Boys from Austria on way to the top

From Rex Bellamy  
Tennis Correspondent  
Antwerp

Two teenagers called Horst Skoff and Thomas Muster have charged from the tennis wilderness into the top 50, which is where the money is. They are hardly household names, even in their native Austria, but they are not producing one such player, that a nation with Austria's modest tennis traditions can produce two.

Muster has beaten Ramesh Krishnan and Brad Gilbert to win a minimum of £33,500 by reaching the last eight of the European Community Championship. True, Krishnan had just flown in from Hong Kong and Gilbert's mobility was inhibited by tendon trouble in his right knee. But at this time of year lots of players are tired or injured or both, and remain interested in piling up as much money as possible.

Gilbert looks rather like the dark-haired half of the Stansky and Hutch TV series. There is nothing spectacular about his game but it is neat and always makes sense. He has a good touch, too. He flew from Paris to San Francisco last week to have that knee examined and then arrived in Antwerp a week later.

This year Gilbert beat John MacEnroe in the Masters tournament, then won four grand prix events and made more money than he has ever dreamed about. He does not want to put down the pot of gold until he has emptied it.

Muster, aged 19, is a left-handed player whose short fair hair is always such a mess that one suspects his hair is an eccentric who wears a penknife. Muster is a busy and bouncy base-liner who goes in for long-range aggression. He serves hard and uses top-spin on both hands. Pierce cross-court backhands were features of his 6-3, 6-7, 6-4 win over Gilbert yesterday.

Sooner or later Muster will learn how to volley and could then be very good indeed. He reckons his advance like Scott's has been inspired by good coaching, latterly from the tactically shrewd Balazs Taroczy. But Muster is also convinced that he made a wise move two years ago when, dissatisfied with his national association's development scheme, he decided to take a chance and go it alone with the help of a manager.

On Wednesday evening there was a connoisseur's match in which "The Big Cat", Miloslav Meir, beat the quick and crafty Paul McNamee. Meir reached the last eight at Wimbledon and was runner-up for the United States championship in 1979. His strokes and speed of foot are equally deceptive and he has unusual weight of shot, timing the ball so well that — with a nudge — he can make it fly like a bullet. He is also bigger than McNamee and almost 10 years younger.

One quarter-final will be between those formerly renowned juniors, Jimmy Arias, now 22, and Aaron Krichansky, 19. Neither could consolidate rapid rise to the upper crust, but with the help of new coaches each seems to be regaining momentum. A change of coach is often beneficial: a fresh approach can open windows in the mind.

RESULTS: T Muster (Austria) vs B Gilbert (USA) 6-3, 6-7, 6-4; H L La Penna (Arg) vs E Sanchez (Spa) 6-4, 7-6.

## Big profits but few dividends

The management committee of the Wimbledon championships announced yesterday that a record surplus of £6,200,848 would be passed to the Lawn Tennis Association for the benefit of British tennis.

Overseas associations remain puzzled by the fact that British tennis has so little to show for its series of huge handouts from the game's most famous tournament. As I have pointed out before, Britain can make money out of tennis players but, deplorably, cannot make tennis players out of money.

Most of us are getting more than a little fed up with LTA promises of a new dawn at the end of an indefinite point in the future. True, much has been, and is being, done to recognize the British game, encourage junior development, increase competition at all levels, and improve playing facilities.

The fact remains that, by international standards, Britain's leading tennis goods in the national game's shop window — have become something of a joke. The LTA may (too slowly) be creating a climate for excellence. But nobody is excellent — and the responsibility for that must rest largely with the LTA.

The paradox of Wimbledon's record surplus is that it coincides with a year in which Britain sank to a rare nadir of failure in three team events.

In a Davis Cup tie, Australia achieved a winning lead over Britain without conceding a set in the corresponding Federation Cup competition. Denmark, hardly formidable opponents, beat Britain in the first round; then, an American reserve team inflicted on Britain their heaviest Wightman Cup defeat at home for 34 years. The Wimbledon surplus looks like financial aid for a disaster area.



Hand-to-hand combat: David Bryant (left), the old master of English bowls, and young Irishman, Rodney McCutcheon, signal their intentions at the CIS UK championships

## FOOTBALL: FOREIGN LEAGUE SCREENINGS IMPAIRED BY FA INTERFERENCE

## Sadly blind to a vision of beauty

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

The Football Association has blocked a move to show foreign league games live on television. The governing body has opened on Sunday with the potentially dazzling fixture between Juventus and Napoli, the joint leaders in Italy, but ITV has been forced to take their suggestive idea off their schedule.

The Italians, who so admire the English game that they readily import their leading players, are astounded by the FA's attitude. A headline in yesterday morning's *Corriere dello Sport* summed up the reaction. "Our game is too beautiful for the English", it read. The assumption is not unreasonable.

"The fact that the two teams are the leaders in Italy was pure coincidence", an ITV spokesman said yesterday. "We picked it simply because we thought the viewers might like to see players such as Platini, Laudrup and, particularly, Maradona in action. Obviously, we are very disappointed about the FA's decision."

Since it allows us to put foreign football on live only outside the English season, it has effectively stopped us altogether. Spain and Italy are the only leagues worth covering and the Spaniards flash at the end of the Italian season. We are up on FA Cup final day here," Ted Croker, the FA secretary, admitted that "we are reluctant to allow the television companies to show these games, which they pick up for low fees, while they are reluctant to show highlights of domestic matches." The viewers, it would seem, are caught in

the gulf that divides the two parties.

"We have to look after our own interests", Croker added. "It is a delicate balance and we try to be flexible but we are concerned about the increase in live coverage. The other weekend, for example, we saw four or five other sports while the national game was ignored. I thought that was disgraceful."

ITV's plan was inspired by public interest during the World Cup finals. Some two weeks ago, it was noted that Sunday's match in Turin, involving three of the most prominent figures in Mexico last summer, happened to fall conveniently into almost the only gap in the domestic television programme between October and March.

According to UEFA's rules governing such matters, permission must be sought from the authorities of the nations in which the fixture is being staged, and in which it is to be televised. The Italian FA initially granted it but subsequently withdrew it after receiving a message from Lancaster Gate.

Senior executives at ITV were so incensed about the FA's lack of vision that they considered taking legal action. But they were advised by their own lawyers that the FA's case appeared to be "watertight" and that the proceedings in court would be pointless and potentially expensive.

The Football League, after being consulted about the proposal, pointed out that the coverage, which was due to start at 1.30pm, might affect the attendance of the two games that were being staged here on the same afternoon. For the sake of the few who will be assembled at the Recreation Ground, Aldershot, and the Old Show Ground, Southampton, the matter has been delayed.

The second leg of the second round tie started at 8.30 in Turin's Stadio Comunale and ended at 11.18. The quality, diminished by understated fatigue during the later stages, was otherwise of an astonishingly high standard and the final was drama itself. English viewers were treated to less than 20 minutes.

Those highlights included Cabrini's goal, which levelled the aggregate score, and the series of penalties which Real won 3-1 (Juventus narrowly missed three). Unluckily, it excluded a shower of golden moments that were being recalled well into the early hours by those privileged enough to have seen them.

The tie was screened live in Italy. Indeed, Inter Milan's narrow UEFA Cup victory over Legia Warsaw, put on immediately before the main event, even saw a commentator at the stadium who was not allowed to leave his seat for a final glimpse of his glorious career.

By Sunday evening, Juventus will have collected £1m in fees from Real. That amount is almost half of Real's transfer fee. As their supporters prepare to hail their new arrival, they are already in the process of hailing their old inspiration, Platini, who was crowned champion of the world in 1982.

The apathetic Frenchman, who has won every honour except a World Cup winner's medal, was overshadowed in both legs by Claudio. As he leaves the global stage, it is a pity that the English public are not allowed to catch at least a final glimpse of his glorious career.

A missed penalty proved influential in Bucharest where European Cup holders Steaua, bowed out against Anderlecht, of Belgium. Steaua won the trophy in Seville six months ago when Gavrilă Popescu converted the decisive spot-kick in a shoot-out against Barcelona.

But Balint, aged 22, missed from the penalty in the shoot-out. He was one of the best players in the world, he maintained. Although Celtic gave Kiev a fright before leg 3-1, they, like Rangers, will have to strengthen their resources.

Just as Souness will be doing when he comes out of hospital after an operation. Hay will continue the search for new players.

No praise can be high enough for Dundee United.

Russian club football has not been so bright since the national team's scintillating display in the Mexico World Cup — notwithstanding the unfortunate defeat against Belgium — and the Soviet Union still have powerful challengers in all three competitions.

Torpedo Moscow enjoyed the most impressive result of the night in the Cup Winners' Cup when they thrashed Stuttgart 3-1 in West Germany to complete a 7-3 rout, while city rivals Spartak also hit five against Toulouse, of France, in the UEFA Cup.

Spain also boast survivors in all three competitions, though not in the Cup Winners' Cup, and the UEFA Cup favourites Barcelona, both squeezed through on away goals. Belgium and West Germany also have three representatives left to fight another day, two each in the European Cup and one in the UEFA Cup.

Country-by-country breakdown of qualifiers:

EUROPEAN CUP (eight teams): Belgium (Anderlecht), Denmark (Borussia Mönchengladbach), Portugal (Sporting), Soviet Union (Dynamo Kiev), Spain (Real Madrid), Turkey (Galatasaray), Yugoslavia (Red Star Belgrade).

EUROPEAN CUP-WINNERS CUP (eight teams): Austria (Swarovski Tyrol), Belgium (Gent), Czechoslovakia (Dukla Prague), Italy (Torino), Portugal (Sporting), Soviet Union (Torpedo Moscow), Spain (Real Zaragoza), Sweden (Malmö), Switzerland (Göteborg), The Netherlands (Ajax).

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## BOWLS

## The rebels trying to assassinate the King

With the exit from the tournament of the Scottish international, Wood and Watson, the average age of the quarter-finalists in the CIS United Kingdom singles championship at the Preston Guild Hall has dropped to 26 years — if you leave the astonishing David Bryant out of the reckoning.

That is, of course, the very thing that his young challenger, must not do. Bryant, at 33, is not much older than the youngsters, and well though the youngsters have been in the game the old guard, they still have to find a way to assassinate the King.

The chief of the young rebels has already become a casualty. Richard Curtis, aged 19, the plodding, methodical, postman from Edinburgh who won a silver medal in the Commonwealth Games, went out to Roy Cotts, an insurance assessor from Ipswich, who — at 33 — is now the second oldest man in the competition.

The England champion, Curtis, a compulsive gun-chewer, was opposed in the first quarter-final yesterday by a pale, slim Welshman who, at 26, has a considerable collection of Welsh and British titles. John Price, a civil servant from Aberavon, who plays bowls at the impressive Swansea Leisure Centre, has set up a formidable bowling partnership with the brawny Steve Rees, another young quarter-finalist at Preston.

Steve Rees is the British junior champion, but will be unable to defend his title next year as he has reached the advanced age of 26. Looking more like an archetypal darts player than a bowler, he offers a sharp visual contrast to the lean, wiry, and hungry appearance of his Swansea colleague. Like many of his men, he has a fine and delicate touch, and his skill — and patience — make him a consistent and dangerous player.

Today he plays Tony Allcock, whose charisma and skill, as well as his consummate skill, are a major feature in the development of bowls' new image.

Allcock has been playing since he was a toddler and is the perfect example of how bowls (or rolls) is families. His mother, Joan, a fine English international player, who recently died, gave birth between two rounds of the club pairs championship — which she went on to win. Her offspring was Anthony Allcock, who was first capped at 19; he followed up his world fame win in 1984 with successes in the world indoor pairs and singles championships during the past 12 months.

Bowls is a family concern for David Corrick, too. This 26-year-old bowler, his father, David Corrick senior, who is the Irish national coach, in his work with paraplegic bowlers. Avid, angular and ambitious, Corrick joined the bowls superstars when he was the Liverpool Victoria Superbowl last month.

His Irish colleague, Rod McKenna, is unemployed and single. He spends a lot of his time playing bowls, and was the British junior champion four years ago. He is still only 23.

Bob Hitchen is a glasshouse pot-maker, a crown green bowler, and keen enough to delay his honeymoon so that he could play in this event. He is 28.

RESULTS: Second round: R McCutcheon (Irl) vs J Watson (Scot) 7-4, 7-4, 0-7, 6-7, 7-2.

## Value for money in Portugal

Schools rugby  
by Michael Stevenson

Ben Peck, master in charge at Bedford, reports a thoroughly enjoyable half-term visit to Portugal with the first game lost 6-2 to Oporto, followed by a draw thereafter, against Lisbon Combined XV (23-12) and Belemense (26-0). Thirty six boys and four staff made the trip and the 2nd XV also registered a loss on two wins.

Bedford found the opposition fast, strong and physical, but relatively naive tactically. The party was well looked after and Peck warmly recommends a visit to Portugal as "value for money and a good balance between a representative school tour and holiday atmosphere".

Dewsbury, with four wins, a draw and one defeat, topped their eight matches, visited Italy, where they beat Mogliano (15-13), Belluno (39-6) and lost to Fosse (14-18). Damian Shibley, the scrum half, scored 22 points against Belluno and the 26 tourists and staff enjoyed their visit immensely. Their hosts are anxious to visit Britain and to entertain British schools in Italy.

Wirral GS's meeting with Bradford GS had special significance as both schools were unbeaten. The contest could hardly have been closer; Bradford maintained their record, winning 15-14 through three penalties by Jonathan Mitchell, the final winning kick being from around 45 yards, and a converted penalty try, which a pushover seemed probable.

Wirral, dangerous in counter-attack scored two tries, a drop goal and penalty.

Darham School have played 10, won six, lost three and drawn one match. They successfully repelled Sevenoaks' invasion, winning 16-6, through four penalties, kicked



## Steel fist in the velvet glove of Chopin

Perhaps not everybody watching Witold Starecki's *Omnibus* film *Chopin in Flowers* (BBC1, 10.25pm) will fully understand what a Polish intellectual means when, casting about for the musical metaphor that best makes his political point, he describes his country's present predicament as that of a nation in *tempo rubato*. Other Polish contributors to this documentary that works hard to establish a strong link between the music of Chopin and his homeland's long history of defiance of oppression, reinforce the argument with sentiments that are starkly contemporary. There is a clear hint, for example, about Solidarity and its supporters in the statement that "if you can't do anything yourself, you begin to live vicariously through symbols." If it is true, then, that the voice that speaks through

## CHOICE

Chopin's music is as revolutionary as it is romantic, it seems like an act of folly that when General Jaruzelski imposed martial law on Poland in 1981, he ordered the radio stations to relay a non-stop programme of Chopin to keep the nation calm. Clearly, he had not heard about what Schumann said about Chopin's music. Cannon hidden in flowers is how he put it, adding that Czar would probably have banned the "simple and romantic pieces" had he realized what a dangerous enemy was lurking inside them.

● **Pleasure Palaces** (Channel 4, 3.30). Dee Dee Glass's repeated series about British cinemas, ends today with flashbacks to the late Twenties and early Thirties, when people would go to the pictures to

celebrate a wedding anniversary, when the foyers of the super-cinemas were made magnificent by replicas of Buckingham Palace candelabra, and when white-gloved cinema managers held staff inspections that even took in the examination of finger nails. But the particular strength of this documentary series has been its special awareness of the social reminders of this afternoon of the jobs in the Depression years who crowded into the local "flea-pit" for warmth and, as they watched the screen idols of the day warbling optimistic ditties such as *Keep your Sunny Side Up*, and *Happy Days are Here Again*, found much-needed reassurance of better times to come.

● **Highlights of today's 50 Years of BBC Television** celebrations are the Youser Hughes episode of *Alan Bleasdale's* play sequence

*Boys from the Blackstuff* (BBC2, 9.45pm); Jonathan Miller's adaptation of M.R. James's ghoulish story *Whistle and I'll Come to You* (BBC2, 12.25am) which Miller also directed in characteristically intelligent style; and the Stanley meets Livingstone episode from Christopher Ralling's drama documentary series *The Search for the Nile* (BBC2, 8.00pm).

● **Radio choice:** Michael Frayn's translation of Yuri Trifonov's bitter-sweet comedy *Exchange* (Radio 3, 7.30pm), with Michael Jayston as the sorely-tried husband and son; and the *Kaladeis* scope verdict (Radio 4, 9.45pm) on what we have heard so far of Peter Bucknall's adaptation of Thackeray's *Pendennis*. Episode two is on Radio 4, at 3.00pm.

Peter Davalle Colin Firth and Carmen du Sautoy get to grips in the third episode of *Lost Empires*. (ITV 9.00pm)

## BBC1

- 6.00 **Cee-fax AM**.  
6.50 **Breakfast Time** with Frank Bough and Debbie Greenwood. Weather at 6.55, 7.25, 7.55, 8.25 and 8.55; regional news, weather and traffic at 8.57, 9.27, 9.57 and 10.27; national and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00.  
9.05 **Free Press**. A 40 Minutes documentary about Gillian Wake, a blind, 16-year-old Liverpool University student. (r) 9.45 **Advice Line**. Paul Clark and Eileen Eason answer social security problems. 10.00 **Neighbours**. (r)  
10.25 **Philip Schofield** with news of children's television, and birthday greetings. 10.30 **Play School**. 10.50 **Henry's Cat**. (r)  
10.55 **Five to Eleven**. Joanna Lumley with a thought for the day. 11.00 **Public School**. A profile of D.F. 'Goddie' Goddard, sub-warden of Radley who is to leave the school after 30 years to become headmaster of another school. (r)  
11.30 **Open Air**. Viewers comment on yesterday's television programmes. 12.25 **Star Memories**. George Melly recalls fond television memories. 12.55 **Regional news and weather**.  
1.00 **News with Martin Lewis**. Weather. 1.25 **Neighbours**. Weekday soap set in a Melbourne suburb. 1.50 **King Rollo**. (r) 1.55 **Gran**. (r)  
2.00 **The Liver Bird**. Sandra is having trouble with her boyfriend and Beryl's attempts to smooth things over only make matters worse. Starring Pollyanna, Nerys Hughes, and Derek Fowlds. (r) 2.30 **Knobs Landing**. Laura Avery returns to the marital home with news for her husband that could make or break their rocky marriage. 3.30 **Box Clever**. A family quiz presented by Emyl Hughes.  
3.50 **Whizz**. (r) 4.10 **SuperTed**. (r) 4.15 **Best of the Tenth**. The

- final of the Champion of Champions competition. 4.30 **Chuggins Plays Pop**. Keith Chegwin introduces a collection of games, quizzes, and pop music. 5.00 **John Craven's Newsround**. 5.10 **Grange Hill**. Episode 10 of the 24-part drama serial. (r) (Cee-fax) 5.55 **Masterchef** presented by Angela Rippon. 6.00 **News with Sue Lawley** and Nicholas Whitwell. Weather. 6.35 **London Plus**. Tonight's guests include Charlotte Tilton, Bo Derek and Derek Fowlds. Plus a song from Eke Brooks. 7.00 **Wogan**. 7.10 **News**. 7.20 **Wogan**. 7.30 **Wogan**. 7.40 **Wogan**. 7.50 **Wogan**. 8.00 **Wogan**. 8.10 **Wogan**. 8.20 **Wogan**. 8.30 **Wogan**. 8.40 **Wogan**. 8.50 **Wogan**. 9.00 **Wogan**. 9.10 **Wogan**. 9.20 **Wogan**. 9.30 **Wogan**. 9.40 **Wogan**. 9.50 **Wogan**. 10.00 **Wogan**. 10.10 **Wogan**. 10.20 **Wogan**. 10.30 **Wogan**. 10.40 **Wogan**. 10.50 **Wogan**. 11.00 **Wogan**. 11.10 **Wogan**. 11.20 **Wogan**. 11.30 **Wogan**. 11.40 **Wogan**. 11.50 **Wogan**. 12.00 **Wogan**. 12.10 **Wogan**. 12.20 **Wogan**. 12.30 **Wogan**. 12.40 **Wogan**. 12.50 **Wogan**. 1.00 **Wogan**. 1.10 **Wogan**. 1.20 **Wogan**. 1.30 **Wogan**. 1.40 **Wogan**. 1.50 **Wogan**. 2.00 **Wogan**. 2.10 **Wogan**. 2.20 **Wogan**. 2.30 **Wogan**. 2.40 **Wogan**. 2.50 **Wogan**. 3.00 **Wogan**. 3.10 **Wogan**. 3.20 **Wogan**. 3.30 **Wogan**. 3.40 **Wogan**. 3.50 **Wogan**. 4.00 **Wogan**. 4.10 **Wogan**. 4.20 **Wogan**. 4.30 **Wogan**. 4.40 **Wogan**. 4.50 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## SPORT

## Scot in shoes of the Big Man

By Hugh Taylor  
Sharp is the word for Alex Ferguson. There can be little argument that this Jock the Lad from Glasgow's Govan is the among the outstanding managers in Britain today.

The mantle of Jock Stein the motivator has fallen on Ferguson. Like the famed Big Man of Celtic, Ferguson has presence. Footballers snap to attention when he tells them what he wants — and woe betide anyone that falls out of line.

Dapper, looking fit enough still to be playing, the former Rangers inside forward spells out to his players a modern gospel of football tactics, which include supreme fitness.

Ferguson was seriously courted two seasons ago by Tottenham Hotspur who he eventually turned down after agreeing to join the club — a decision he later regretted. At the time he still banked after winning the European Cup, the one trophy which eluded him as it did Busby for many years. But that great Aberdeen team has possibly begun its decline in the last 18 months and while still carrying off both domestic cup competitions last season they failed for the first time in seven seasons to finish in the top three.

This season Archie Knox has returned from Dundee to it was due almost entirely to Ferguson, who combines street wisdom, a modern grasp of business methods and burning ambition for any club of which he is manager, that Aberdeen put Rangers and Celtic in the shade for so long.

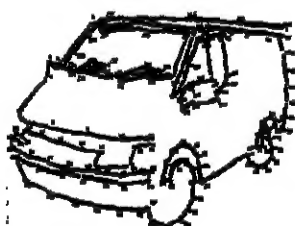
Ferguson, who also managed St Mirren, can be temperamental has a quick temper does not suffer fools or ineffectual sports reporters gladly, is a workaholic and sometimes, as when he assumed the Scotland job as well as that of Aberdeen, he takes on too much for his own good. Ferguson is articulate, can be witty, demands from his players what he himself puts into the game, but he is adored by the supporters of Aberdeen, who will be violently upset if he leaves Pittodrie.

## McNeill's sympathy

Billy McNeill, the Aston Villa manager who was Ron Atkinson's opposite number at Manchester City for three years, yesterday expressed sympathy for the departed Old Trafford manager.

He said: "I feel Ron has been unlucky. He had very good players, but unfortunately he did not have anything like maximum use of them this season.

"I don't care what team it is, if you pick up injuries then things are difficult for a manager. And of course it's even worse at Old Trafford."



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## Ferguson lined up for United

By Clive White

Alex Ferguson, who led Scotland during the World Cup in Mexico, is expected to become the next manager of Manchester United following the dismissal yesterday of Ron Atkinson. Martin Edwards, the chairman, was travelling to Aberdeen last night to talk to Ferguson after the Scottish Premier Division club had given their permission.

The Old Trafford board has cast envious eyes north ever since Ferguson led Aberdeen to Victory in the Cup Winners' Cup final three years ago. He is a man of stature, commanding great respect from those around him. In carrying off numerous domestic trophies in recent years his teams have played with a panache reminiscent of the great pre-Munich United teams. In short he fits the shoes first vacated by Sir Matt Busby in 1969 better than any of the five managers who have followed.

Ferguson was seriously courted two seasons ago by Tottenham Hotspur who he eventually turned down after agreeing to join the club — a decision he later regretted. At the time he still banked after winning the European Cup, the one trophy which eluded him as it did Busby for many years. But that great Aberdeen team has possibly begun its decline in the last 18 months and while still carrying off both domestic cup competitions last season they failed for the first time in seven seasons to finish in the top three.

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share team duties with Ferguson while he himself has also become a director on the club's board. This season's first round elimination from the Cup Winners' Cup was a bitter disappointment and may have left him more amenable to fresh challenges elsewhere. He has two years to run of a five-year contract which at times has netted him £100,000 in a season after bonuses. Compensation to Aberdeen will be considerable.

He became United's obvious target the moment Atkinson was dismissed, along with his assistant, Mick Brown, at yesterday morning's board meeting; the gentleman's agreement among Football League chairmen

that they would not poach each other's managers while they were under contract meant that United were always likely to look outside the League for a replacement.

In announcing the board's decision to terminate Atkinson's contract after five and a half years at Old Trafford, Edwards said that the decision was taken "in the light of the team's poor performance over the last 12 months" and that it was "in the best interests of the club and fans". The United board are known to become particularly nervous about falling gates at Old Trafford where the break-even figure is between 30,000 and 40,000.

Atkinson, who is expected

to receive about £100,000 in compensation, said: "Obviously I'm a bit disappointed. Things have gone against us so I suppose it was inevitable this would eventually happen. Every managerial position has its problems, but here they are magnified because United are the biggest club in Britain and the best known in the world."

It was common knowledge that Atkinson's future hung in the balance this season. He could hardly have made a worse start, losing the first three League games and winning only one in the first nine. Again he has been hampered by injuries which have plagued him right through until the end this week when he learnt that he had lost Whiteside for a month with a knee injury.

A recent run of seven games without defeat was a misleading sign of improvement, a fact confirmed when Southampton knocked United out of the Littlewoods Cup on Tuesday by a humiliating 4-1 margin — the biggest defeat United had suffered since losing 5-1 to Watford in May, 1985. It provided the United board with a ready-made excuse. Despite continued support from the chairman he has and his critics, among them Bobby Charlton, a director on the board. The demands for success are naturally enormous at a club like Manchester United who insist on winning in style. Men of the calibre of Bobby Robson, Lawrie McMenemy and Ron Saunders have declined the job. In the board's eyes Atkinson flattered to deceive.

More football on page 34

## A year in the life of Manchester United

November 1985 — Top										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Manchester United	15	13	2	0	35	6	41			
Liverpool	15	9	4	2	32	18	31			
Sheffield Wed	15	8	4	3	24	23	28			
Chelsea	15	8	3	4	21	15	27			
Arsenal	15	8	3	4	19	15	27			
West Ham United	15	7	5	3	26	17	25			

On November 6, 1985, Ron Atkinson's unbeaten Manchester United led the first division by ten points. A year later, on the day of Atkinson's dismissal, United were third from bottom. In the interim, United played 40 League matches, winning 12, drawing 12, losing 16, scoring 51 goals and conceding 46. Of 12 matches in the FA Cup, Milk Cup, Super Cup and Littlewoods Cup over those 12 months, they won five, drew three and lost four, scoring 16 goals and conceding 13.

## United's recent managers

Matt Busby — appointed Oct 1945, retired May 1970.  
Walter McGuinness — appointed Aug 1970, sacked Dec 1970.  
Sir Matt Busby — temporary return as team manager Dec 1970-Jun 1971.  
Frank O'Farrell — appointed Jun 1971, sacked Dec 1972.  
Tommy Docherty — appointed Dec 1972, sacked Apr 1981.  
Ron Atkinson — appointed Jun 1981, sacked Nov 1986.  
● United sacked Dave Sexton in April 1981 (after a run of seven wins) and Atkinson replaced him as first choice after Lawrie McMenemy and Bobby Robson turned the job down. In five seasons under Atkinson, United have finished third, third, fourth, fourth, and fourth again in the championship and won the FA Cup twice (1983 and 1985).

## High flyer who toppled off the tightrope

By Peter Ball

Ron Atkinson's tragedy, if there is any tragedy in his dismissal by Manchester United, is that in the time as the club's manager he did not have the courage, in Arthur Miller's aphorism, to let himself be known.

That seems an unlikely epitaph for one of the game's most flamboyant managers, who occupied centre stage for five years as manager of the most glamorous club in the country, hogging the back pages constantly and appearing regularly as a television pundit. His friends, however, insist that behind the flashy exterior lies a solid, down-to-earth football man.

There is at least a partial truth in his friends' interpretation. A powerful journeyman player who captained Oxford United in their heady early days in the League, earning a reputation for honesty and enthusiasm in the lower divisions, there was little in his background to deny that view, and his early success as manager of Cambridge United was built on solid work.

It is still said that he is at his happiest playing in five-a-sides in training or talking football with football people away from the public stage.

It is not a persona which he has elected to show to the world, who see only the gold bracelets, flash cars, ostentatious clothes and champagne. Possibly that was an image he cultivated when he was brought in to replace Dave Sexton, in the knowledge that United wanted a larger-than-life character to claim headlines away from John Bond,

who was then dominating them for Manchester City.

If so, it was a profound misjudgement, for the fans who had never warmed to the reserved Sexton were no more sympathetic to his successor and their antipathy left him vulnerable as results slipped badly. Walking a tightrope since United's crashing decline last season, and with his stress relationships increasingly sour, he will be mourned by few in Manchester now that he has fallen off.

But if his image ultimately did little to help him, that was not at the heart of his dismissal. Even if his friends' account of him could be accepted without question, the club's record of only 11 wins against first division opposition in a year suggests that United's problems ran much deeper than a poor start to the season.

His feeling for the game is undoubted. If Manchester United have always demanded style as well as success, that

gelled with Atkinson's own preferences. He has always espoused attractive football and at West Bromwich and Old Trafford he put together teams to fulfil that desire.

The suspicion, however, is that he mistakes style for substance in football as in appearance. Surprisingly, given his grass-roots background, he has apparently never understood that teams have to be built on solid values and the lack of them has cost United dear. Unlike Liverpool and Everton, United players have had no solid core of team unity to cling to when things got sticky.

If his players generally have stayed loyal to him — Robson and Whiteside have spoken out in his defence in recent weeks, saying the team should take the blame for United's failures — it is noticeable that the team leaders in his early days, Martin Buchan and Ray Wilkins, were disenchanted. And Frank Stapleton, another powerful figure in the dressing-rooms, has not been famous for taking people aside to sing his manager's praises.

His friends will point again to the run of injuries, which undermined his challenge last season and have recurred, depriving him once again of the jewel in his crown, Bryan Robson, one of his first and certainly most expensive signings when he took over.

The run of injuries have raised questions among outsiders about the club's preparations, especially the number of hamstring injuries which have run through the team, leading to scepticism over the amount of time United spend training on an artificial surface and over their warm-up procedures.

More fundamentally, although Atkinson himself has regularly referred to injuries as an explanation, United have not been the only club to suffer severely with them.

In a rare moment of self-knowledge, after the humiliating home defeat by Sheffield Wednesday in April had ended their chances of winning the League, and he was believed by friends to be on the brink of resignation, he rejected that excuse when it was proffered by a reporter. "It's not effing injuries!" he snapped.

The assumption is that he had no answer to what it was, although after that game he confessed that he could not understand how players could fail to give their all.

Atkinson's responsibility for that cannot be evaded. He has perhaps not understood the delicate mechanism which is a football team, and his response last season was to bring in a series of new players, which did nothing for the group's cohesiveness.

Individually excellent as they undoubtedly were, only Colin Gibson proved a successful transplant. Terry Gibson, Peter Davenport and John Sivebeck finding the introduction into an unsettled team horrendously difficult.

A more serious criticism concerns other transfer dealings which have left United fans wondering if success on the field is the prime object at Old Trafford. The sale of Ray Wilkins to Italy and the pursuit of Strachan and Olsen as replacements in 1984, negotiated at a time when United were challenging strongly for the championship, raised doubts about what United's priorities were.

Similarly, the proposed sale of Whiteside to Italy in 1982, and of Stapleton to Borussia Neuss in 1983, lost United a year ago, and most markedly the sale of Mark Hughes to Barcelona last year, did nothing for public confidence.



Bowing out: Ron Atkinson at Old Trafford yesterday after his dismissal

## Stairway to the Red Devils

style of play earned him the nickname "tank".

He became player-manager at Keighley, twice winning the Southern League championship, before returning to League soccer in charge at Cambridge in December 1974. He won the Fourth Division championship in 1977.

Atkinson moved to First Division West Bromwich Albion, in January 1978 and took Albion into Europe three times in his four seasons. It

was during his spell at Albion that he acquired a high-life image with a taste for gold jewellery, champagne and expensive clothing.

He took over from Dave Sexton at Manchester United in June 1981 on a salary reputed to be £30,000 per year.

He guided United to two FA Cup wins in 1983 and 1985 and the final of the Milk Cup in 1983 losing 2-1 to Liverpool.

His League record at Old Trafford is: 3rd, 3rd, 4th, 4th, and currently 19th.

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## Men of Harlech steal a march

By David Hands  
Rugby Correspondent

Most of those who view next year's inaugural rugby World Cup will do so via television. The rights are still being negotiated in some parts of the world, notably North America, but agreements have been concluded with the BBC in Britain, who hope to show every try in the tournament (by inference, parts of every game played), with New Zealand television who hope to put out every match live, and with two companies in Japan.

Incidentally, however, there will be curiosity in the form of the 16 competing nations as the World Cup approaches. It is this curiosity which has encouraged Harlech television to become the first independent company to show an international match live in its entirety, that between France and New Zealand in Toulouse tomorrow (2.45).

Viewers who have come to regard the BBC as the natural medium for television rugby will watch the difference in tone and commentary with interest. The four home unions, especially Wales, will watch with some concern the effect such a programming has on crowds at the gate-taking clubs.

Project floated six weeks ago

It is significant that the six companies who have agreed to take pictures from French television — RTV Wales, HTV West, TSW, Grampian, STV and Ulster — are all in areas with either a natural affinity with the game, or recent success, or both. If any of the big four of the independent companies, Yorkshire, Granada, Central and Thames, could be lured into involvement it would reduce costs to each independent company considerably.

The project was floated as little as six weeks ago by John Roberts, producer and director of RTV Wales's sports department. "It's not effing injuries!" he snapped.

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Protecting the gates of clubs

HTV could have accepted the Eurovision version of the Toulouse match, complete with commentary from a New Zealander, but have decided to send their own team of Bob Symonds and Gerald Davies, plus a Welsh language team including Gareth Edwards, whose contract with the BBC has been concluded.

"I would like to see independent television as a whole bid for the contract next time it is decided by the four home unions," Mr Roberts said. ITV policy on sport over the last couple of years has been to go for live and exclusive coverage but there has been little interest expressed on either side for challenging the BBC's hold on rugby union, even if the renewal of each contract between the corporation and the home unions has always been the subject of hard-headed discussion.

"There is interest in rugby union but it's not big ratings," an ITV spokesman said yesterday. "If you look at ITV sports ratings when we are up against a Rugby Union international, our sport normally beats the Rugby Union side. But if there were the possibility of a Rugby Union contract around to be discussed, obviously we would discuss it."

The concern of the unions has always been to protect the gates of clubs. The Welsh Rugby Union have suggested that tomorrow's programme could "decimate" gates; it will be instructive to see how significant the effect is or whether the average rugby follower enjoys parochial first-hand entertainment rather than a game between two countries from overseas.

## SQUASH RACKETS

## Robertson is troubled by youngster

Chris Robertson, normally a quicksilver player of inventive court presence, took an one-and-a-half hours to dismiss Umar Hyat Khan, a young Pakistani eight places behind his own 15th world ranking, at the World Open championship in Toulouse yesterday (Colin McQuillan writes).

The 21-year-old Australian, who won 3-9, 9-3, 9-2, 9-7, meets the winner of today's first round clash between British champion Philip Kenyon and junior world champion Jansher Khan, aged 17, crushed Welshman Adrian Davies to qualify.

Englishmen Bryan Beeson and Robert Graham also line up in the first round today after finishing in the top eight in the qualifying tournament, but Simon Taylor and Zain Saleh fell at the last hurdle.

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